

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, January 23, 1992

Published Since 1877



**"PRAY ALL THE TIME...  
and keep praying earnestly  
for all Christians everywhere."  
—Ephesians 6:18**

**FEBRUARY 2, 1992**

## Baptists Pray Together

### BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE DAY 1992



*The 16th Baptist World Congress in Seoul, Korea, was a praying Congress. The sounds of praying Baptists filled the air in Congress sessions, hotels, churches and homes. Let the sounds of Baptists in fervent prayer fill your church today on this Baptist World Alliance Day February 2, 1992.*

## Three wandering thoughts

By David L. Morrow

*What is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away (James 4:14).*

It seems like moments ago it all started. But those moments have tumbled into hours, days, years, and now we look back wondering where life went. The joys and wonders of childhood blend imperceptibly into the anxiety and newfound independence of the teenage life. Then, almost without turning around, we are deluged with the responsibility and challenges of adulthood. Almost as quickly, we're at retirement, sometimes feeling life is all behind us.

What was my purpose? Why was I born? Did I leave any mark? Is the world really any different for my stay here? Even biblical writers struggled with the meaning, value, and brevity of life. *Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away (Psalms 144:4).*

I think that is why we carve our initials into the tender bark of the young trees: just to see our names immortalized, lasting notes to let other wanderers know we've been down these paths before them.

Yes, the majority of this earth has quietly lived and died, leaving only initials in the bark. But that is not the case for you and me! You see, there is a higher, more deliberate purpose for those of us who have called the name of Christ in repentance, seeking forgiveness and salvation. And we get so much more along the way.

Second thought... Do you remember the old chain letters? You know the one where you send something to the name at top of the list, then add your name to the bottom, and send the letter on its way, expecting to receive a wealth of whatever you mailed the person at the top of the list? Great threats of harm and examples of such are listed to warn you of the folly of breaking the chain.

There is something like that going on now, in your life and mine, only the stakes are so much higher. You and I are the progenitors of the next generation of believers. Unless we do our part, guess what... The chain is broken for a whole line of potential believers. *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also (2 Tim. 2:2).*

Third thought... Have you ever seen a family tree? Some are even drawn out to look like trees. If we were to look at one of those family trees, we would see different branches. Each branch represents another person and the children born by him. There are some branches that continue for hundreds of years and other branches run to a dead end. What is the cause of the dead end? No offspring!

Now envision your spiritual family tree. Are you moving toward a dead end branch, or is your tree living and growing? *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing (John 15:5).*

What is the point of all this rambling? The only really significant, life-changing thing we will ever be a part of is what we do for the kingdom. Sharing the simple gospel, helping those who hear to grow, so they in turn can share with someone else. These will alter the future for generations. Sharing our faith in a witnessing, discipling way will make a difference in one life, in the lives of his children, and all of those with whom they come in contact.

Dwell on these thoughts: What are we doing that will make a difference in a hundred years? Our sharing Christ and discipling those who have found the faith. *Therefore go and make disciples... (Matt. 28:19 NIV).*

Morrow is consultant, Discipleship Training Department, MBCB.



Morrow

## What is your will?

By Aubrey Boone

In seeking a solution to a given problem, how often have you been asked, "What is your will?" The question seeks expression of your basic desire and intent. Applying that same inquiry to your life's possessions, what is your present desire for the future use of that with which you have been blessed?

Because of the importance of Christian stewardship, Southern Baptists have designated January as "Make Your Will Month." It has been estimated that 7 out of 10 people die without a will. This statistic means that 70% of Mississippi Baptists do not envision Christian stewardship of possessions as extending past their death and are willing for the state to determine how their possessions are to be divided and used. Without a will or living trust, the law of descent and distribution control how property and possessions are divided among heirs. These laws make no provision for charitable or religious use of any of your possessions.

However, with a will or living trust, the possibilities of Christian stewardship are vastly increased. For example, through a gift or bequest in your will, or through creation of a specific trust fund for scholarships, mission support, evangelism, or a multitude of other opportunities, your gift can provide ongoing support for the work of Christ in your community, state, or

around the world. The creation of a perpetual trust provides for the specific use of your possessions and gift forever!

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation would be pleased to provide you with information regarding the limitless opportunities for stewardship of your material blessings after your death. The Foundation, an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is in its 49th year of service and administers assets exceeding 20 million dollars. Earnings from these assets enabled the Foundation to distribute over \$1.5 million last year in support of Baptist work.

Such ongoing support is possible only because people like you were concerned enough to take time to prepare a will leaving money or other assets to provide needed financial assistance. What about you? As you pause for a moment and reflect upon the extent of your material blessings, what is your will regarding the stewardship and future use of those possessions in support of Christ's work. Have you written your will?

You are encouraged to contact the Foundation at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, 968-3800, or discuss the possibilities with your attorney, and begin the process of sharing with future generations through making your will.

Boone is executive director, Baptist Foundation.



# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## The anatomy of a split

Solomon's kingdom was strong, influential, and prosperous. It extended from Mesopotamia to Egypt and tribute was paid to Israel by all surrounding nations. Magnificent buildings, a strong army, trade allowances, and good government had made Israel a wealthy nation.

And so Southern Baptists had grown. From the pioneer days of circuit riders and farmer-preachers, we sowed the South in churches by 1900 and in 60 years were in all 50 states. Our schools were many, our seminaries were glorious institutions. Our Home Mission Board moved us toward a myriad of ministries even as the Foreign Mission Board moved in to 125 countries with nearly 4,000 missionaries. God had blessed and we were prosperous.

Israel had great leadership. David, the sweet singer of Israel, found favor with God and man. The wit and winsomeness of Solomon capped a glorious reign. Samuel rendered valuable service to the kingdom as statesman, prophet, and priest. Nathan, the fearless prophet, denounced kings or paupers if sin were in the camp.

And God blessed Southern Baptists

with great leaders. Roger Williams opened the door and through it walked men like Isaac Backus and Luther Rice, pioneer preachers like Lansing Burrows to Dan Moulder, theologians E. Y. Mullins, W. O. Carver, W. W. Barnes, and statesmen J. B. Gambrell, J. M. Frost, and George Truett. Time would fail me to tell of the Holcombs, the Leavells, Lee Scarborough, and a host of others who through faith wrought righteousness and forged a great convention.

Through the years a keen rivalry was present between the strong tribes of southern Judah and the north. The Northern Kingdom Israel, was slow to accept David and they wrangled much over leadership. Then Rehoboam, the foolish, succeeded Solomon and Jeroboam of the Northern Kingdom demanded a statement as to his policy. They were tired of the taxes and high-handed treatment. Rehoboam sought counsel from the older men; be cautious, be considerate, there is real peril ahead, they said. Then he talked with his younger friends and they said, be harsh, lay greater burdens on them. Soon thereafter, Rehoboam made his famous, "My little finger shall be thicker than

my father's loins" speech (I Kings 12:10).

Increasingly the winter of discontent settled upon Southern Baptists. Accusations of fundamentalism or liberalism, lust for power and recognition, and a stiff-necked attitude of defending the status quo surfaced. Baptists were warned of "error that can destroy us from within." Modern Rehoboams sharpened their claws on any who refused to see things "as I see it," and caution was thrown to the wind and the whirlwind followed. Peace committees met, resolutions were passed, fellowships were formed as good men on both sides were entangled in a web of unethical activities, and a "search and destroy" attitude moved across the convention.

Then came the split. We don't have to take this, said Jeroboam: "What portion have we with David, to your tent, O Israel." "So Israel rebelled against the house of David." It took Judah a while to realize they could not force the rebellious Israelites back into the camp. The die was cast and strife, warfare, and hatred would be their lot for the next 200 years. The fathers had eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth

were set on edge.

But Southern Baptists came to themselves even as the Prodigal Son. We have grieved the Father. Let us arise and get our older brother in the field and both of us go to the Father and ask forgiveness lest we be destroyed. Recriminations, personality differences, and strife were laid aside. Together we linked arms and agreed to return to the faith of our fathers with the Baptist Faith and Message leading us to the world wide mission task.

Meanwhile back in Israel, idolatry flourished and eventually would be universally established. Jeroboam said, "There is little use for you to go up to Jerusalem. We can set up two shrines for worship, one at Bethel, and the other at Dan." But Jehovah was neither honored nor worshipped. An idol, a pitiful calf was set up. Jeroboam had great strength in organization and leadership but ultimately his epitaph was written: "Jeroboam, son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin."

God had spoken. The prophets delivered the message. Judgment is coming and your house shall be left desolate.

## Does everyone need a computer?

By John E. Dent Jr.

I had never seen David so excited before — he was usually a very quiet person. But now he was dragging me to his apartment to see his new "typewriter." What I saw was his new computer. David began to show me what it could do — how it could help him to write better. I was first intrigued; when I saw that it could help me do my writing more quickly and with better quality, I was hooked.

From those days in 1983, when I was a doctoral student at New Orleans Seminary, through my years of teaching at Clarke College, computers have become increasingly important in my life. My basic reason for using computers can be summed up by one biblical concept — stewardship. I can do a better job in less time using my computer than I can without it. I am free to spend more time doing what a computer cannot. However, computers are not for everyone.

### Does my church need a computer?

The answer to this question is possibly. People are of primary importance in the church. Although this does not exclude all church members, in the context of examining the role of computers, those people who will use computers (probably church staff) need to be considered.

Computers are not for everyone. If your pastor, church secretary, or other staff member refuses to think about how computers can help, I believe you should not push the issue. If your pastor, secretary, and staff members have all the time they need to get their work done, little would be gained from moving them in the

direction of using a computer. Similarly, if everything written (printed) at your church is of superior quality, your church may not need a computer.

If your pastor, church secretary, and other church staff are unwilling to learn to use a computer and its programs, your church may not need a computer. Finally, if your church would have to cut missions giving or salaries in order to purchase a computer, it would be best not to purchase it.

### Does my pastor need a computer?

The answer to this question is probably. Effective use of a computer can give the pastor a precious gift — time. A computer can help the pastor to save time in some areas so that he can have it to use in other areas. Although pastors can use computers in almost unlimited ways, many programs are written for Bible study and sermon preparation, church administration, and counseling.

Central to my ministry as a teacher and preacher are programs written for use in Bible study and sermon preparation. To have immediate access to information by pressing a few keys on the keyboard saves much time. To have several translations of the Bible displayed side-by-side is helpful. Other tools such as choice of illustrations for texts or topics available at a touch is faster than looking through my files.

Another program I use in Bible study is a word processor. It allows me to type my sermons and edit them

without retyping. I can also have Bible study and sermon illustration programs import research into my sermon without typing it. I can spend more time revising and less time typing.

Counseling programs from a Christian perspective incorporate testing and opinion surveys with Biblical principles, allowing me to spend more time counseling in person.

Church management programs help church secretaries and other staff. They can also help the pastor to keep up with the congregation and with prospects. These programs keep records of membership, attendance, and financial activities.

### Does the church staff need a computer?

The answer is probably. If your church produces a bulletin or keeps records, a computer system could help your church staff to be more efficient. A bulletin becomes much easier to revise; all printed material becomes more attractive, easier-to-read, and better quality when done on a good computer system.

Not everyone needs a computer. If your church does not purchase a bulletin or keep records; if your pastor does not need more time, or should not produce better sermons and Bible studies; if those who would use a computer will not learn how to use it, then a computer becomes an expensive paperweight, poor stewardship of money contributed for use in God's kingdom.

Dent is instructor of Greek and New Testament, Clarke College.

## Committed to evangelism

One thing Baptists do agree on is evangelism. We will reach out or we will die out. Spurgeon said, "Our main business is to win souls." The word "evangelize" is mentioned 52 times in the New Testament and from John the Baptist to John the Apostle, the New Testament Christians sought to reach people with the gospel.

The modern preacher was described by F. C. Patton as being "a minimizer of the gospel. He takes two tablets of Bible doctrine, dissolves them in a gallon or two of rose water sentimentality, puts a little in an atomizer, and gently sprays the congregation." I don't know where Mr. Patton went to church, but it wasn't in Baptist churches in Mississippi. The gospel is proclaimed, and Christ is still in the saving business. Redemption, from the promised land to a peculiar people, remains God's eternal purpose. Southern Baptists have grown strong on a steady diet of evangelism; we suffer when we neglect it.

There is a three-fold approach to

evangelism:

1. Being the Word — the influence of the believer's spiritual quality and example.

2. Doing the Word — the influence of the believer's loving service toward others.

3. Saying the Word — the influence of the believer's verbal communication with those outside the church.

The religious "junk food" kick of a quick fix, cash only, no involvement, and temporary satisfaction will not grow strong believers.

The state Evangelism Conference will meet Jan. 27-28 in Hattiesburg. "Serving Jesus through the family, to the family" will be highlighted. A strong program of music, preaching, and practicing will be on target in helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus. Every pastor ought to be there. Lay persons, indeed the whole family, is invited. Evangelism will be sharply in focus in a great fellowship of believers. Our state will benefit from it.

— GH

## Congratulations, Mr. Fordice

Inauguration Day for Gov. Kirk Fordice began with a prayer breakfast. The governor's pastor, Clint Gill, of Crawford Street Methodist Church, Vicksburg, led the inauguration ceremony's prayer. The governor's wife, Patsy, read the 21st Psalm and Chief Justice Roy Noble Lee administered the oath of office.

Frank Pollard, pastor of First, Jackson, stated at the prayer breakfast that "We do need to pray for Gov. Fordice, but more important is to pray for the citizens of our state that we might be the right kind of citizens. The governor and all our government officials need our prayers every day." The spiritual encouragement of the prayer breakfast and the inauguration of Mississippi's 61st governor was encouraging.

— GH

## The Baptist Record

VOLUME 115

(ISSN-0005-5778)

Number 49

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

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Advertising Manager ..... Evelyn Keyes  
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Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Send news, communications, and address changes to The Editor, Baptist Record P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205



## New writers begin SS lesson commentaries

Three new Sunday School lesson writers began commentaries for the Baptist Record this month. They are Bobby Williamson, Lola Autry, and Charles Nestor.

Bobby Williamson, pastor of Park Place Church, Brandon/Pearl, was born in Memphis. He was graduated from Central Holmes High School, Lexington, Miss.; Holmes Community College; Mississippi State University; and New Orleans Seminary.

First Church, Lexington, licensed him to the ministry and Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty, where he held his first pastorate, ordained him. Before moving to the Park Place pastorate in 1987, he was pastor of Meadville Church at Meadville for three years.

He is married to the former Rhonda Dobbs and they have three children. His hobbies are "play-by-play radio for area football games," softball, and basketball.

Lola Autry is a member of Pine Grove Church, Benton County, where she has directed the music, played the piano, and taught Sunday School. Her late husband, E. A. Autry, was a pastor, writer, and naturalist.

Mrs. Autry is a musician, author, and photographer with her own portrait studio.

A native of Memphis, she was graduated from Memphis State University. With her husband, she collaborated in writing the books, *Don't Look Back, Mama, and Bible Puppet Plays*. Her photographs have appeared in Mississippi magazine and national magazines such as *Field and Stream*. She has participated in volunteer mission projects in Argentina, France, Alaska, Mississippi, and other places, and has frequently written feature articles for the Baptist Record. She is mother of twins.

Charles Nestor, pastor of First Church, Bruce, since 1978 was born in Nestorville, West Virginia. He and his wife Clara have two children. His hobbies are reading, writing, computers, woodworking, and yard work.

Nestor was graduated from high school in Kasson, W. Va.; from West Virginia University; and from Southwestern Seminary, with a doctor of ministry degree from the latter.

He was licensed to preach by Forest Hill Church, Germantown, Tenn. and ordained by Proctor Church, Proctor, Texas, his first pastorate. Other churches he has served as pastor include First Church, Santo, Texas, and First Church, Coldwater, Miss.

## Baptist agency will send ag experts to Mongolia

By Michael Chute

HONG KONG (BP) — The government of Mongolia has asked Cooperative Services International to provide medical and agricultural experts to aid the economically devastated country.

The agreements signed recently call for the Southern Baptist humanitarian aid organization to send five doctors, one health consultant, and two agriculturists over the next several months.

The medical personnel will help Mongolia's health ministry privatize its socialist medical system. Agricultural experts will train farmers to produce fruits and vegetables in the once-isolated country wedged between China and Soviet Central Asia.

"Mongolia's in transition after the collapse of the Soviet Union," said Jim Diedrich, a Hong Kong-based CSI worker. "Once the Soviets' closest communist ally, now Mongolia is an economic disaster area. Politically, the country's Communist Party has fallen. The new constitution guarantees a multiparty state. But economically, Soviet support that's been withdrawn has destroyed the former socialist country's production base."

Southern Baptists' first career workers in Mongolia — Don and Helen McNeely of Weslaco and Jarrell, Texas, respectively — arrived Jan. 7. The former missionaries to Zambia were invited by International Support Services (ISS), a Mongolia-based Christian agency, to work with Ulan Bator's two Christian churches.

The McNeelys follow Stan and Laura Kirk of Memphis, Tenn., who arrived in Mongolia last February to teach English at the Medical Institute in Ulan Bator. The first Southern Baptist workers assigned to Mongolia, the Kirks are beginning the second year of a two-year assignment.

The country's lack of fruit and vegetable production has created serious problems. Production of cultivated fruit is nonexistent.

The Mongolian government granted CSI personnel contracts for five-year terms, renewable for another five years.

CSI also has helped deliver food and medical supplies to Mongolia in recent months.

CSI also is working with Campus Crusade for Christ to present a Mongolian-language version of the "Jesus" film, which has been seen by millions of people around the world. The Mongolian government recently granted Campus Crusade permission for a mid-January premiere of the film. CSI is recruiting six three-member teams to show the film throughout the country in July.

"We need one career worker and two more (shorter-term workers) to teach English," said Diedrich of other personnel requests for Mongolia.

Diedrich said CSI also hopes to assign two nurses to work with the agriculturalists. "With what we've projected, Southern Baptists could have 24 workers in Mongolia within a year or two, provided we find the people," he said.

Chute writes for FMB.

## Chapman is nominee to succeed Bennett

DURHAM, N.C. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Morris H. Chapman is the nominee to succeed Harold C. Bennett as President-Treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, according to the search committee chairman, with an employment date sometime after the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis in June.

Assuming the Executive Committee approves the nominee at its Feb.

17-19 meeting in Nashville, Chapman is expected to begin after he finishes his second term as president of the SBC at the June 9-11 meeting. Chapman told the Wichita Falls congregation Jan. 19 but details of the exact date of employment with the Executive Committee will be worked out at the February meeting, Motley told Baptist Press.

The Second Front Page

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Thursday, January 23, 1992

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PRAYERTIME — WMU leaders encircle Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks and home and foreign missionaries during the Jan. 11-16 WMU executive board meeting. (WMU Photo by Dan Bryan)

## WMU leaders issue call to prayer: Feb. 10-11

By Susan Todd Doyle

TALLADEGA, Ala. — A conviction that Southern Baptists are losing their passion for missions led leaders of the Woman's Missionary Union to take two related actions during their Jan. 11-16 meeting:

\* They issued a call to prayer among the WMU membership for Southern Baptists to reclaim their passion for missions, and

\* National WMU President Carolyn Miller appointed 16 of the leaders to explore action plans and strategies that "could enable the denomination to meet missions challenges and seize the opportunities of the day."

The gathering of WMU leaders at Talladega, Ala., include state WMU presidents, who comprise the WMU executive board; state WMU executive directors and their staffs; and national WMU leaders and staff. The leaders met at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly in Talladega.

The call to prayer is scheduled for noon Monday, Feb. 10, through noon Tuesday, Feb. 11. The call to prayer falls within "Focus on WMU Week" and coincides with the February meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees.

"Prayer is the most powerful action we can take, no matter what the issue," said Dellanna O'Brien, national WMU executive director. "These are trying times, not only within our denomination, but within our own country and the larger world scene, as well. We must claim the power of the Holy Spirit and the prom-

ises of God's Word to guide us every step of the way.

"We must not be consumed by the darkness of confusion, doubt, or fear. We must trust our Guide and his promises," O'Brien said. "There's not one of us who wouldn't say that prayer is the most important thing we will do in the days ahead."

During an impromptu, informal

**"Prayer is the most powerful action we can take." — Dellanna O'Brien**

dialogue time with Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks, the WMU leaders encircled Parks and the home and foreign missionaries present to pray for them.

During the board meeting, WMU leaders also heard a report from the public relations firm of Lawler Ballard Van Durand. The WMU executive board hired the Birmingham firm almost two years ago to lead in an awareness-building effort.

Last year, WMU and Lawler Ballard Van Durand completed a year-long research project to assess opinions and perceptions about WMU. Tinsley Van Durand, president, reported the findings of the final stage of the five-phase research project — a national survey among Southern Baptist women. The survey is perhaps the

most comprehensive survey ever conducted among Southern Baptist women, he said.

Survey results show that "there are a number of very clear and positive findings about WMU and its members. Ultimately, respondents tell us, there is a difference between WMU members and non-WMU members:

\* WMU members worship at SBC churches more frequently than non-members.

\* WMU members are more involved in other activities of their churches than non-members.

\* WMU members are more concerned about spreading the Word of the Lord among the unchurched than are non-members.

\* WMU members are more likely to stick to their Christian faith than bend in the face of secular pressure.

\* WMU members enjoy a fellowship that is the result of dedication, caring for the unchurched, and love for one another.

\* WMU members give more to missions causes than non-members.

\* WMU members are more satisfied with their level of spiritual development than are non-members.

\* WMU members are more satisfied with their level of involvement in the church than are non-members."

In short, the survey results show, "WMU members are stalwart Chris-

See WMU on page 10.



# Fellowship offers to fund missionaries in Europe

By Scott Collins

DALLAS (BP) — An offer to fund Southern Baptist missionaries in Europe who resign from the Foreign Mission Board has been made by the coordinating council of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The offer came Jan. 11 when the council, meeting at a hotel near the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, approved a motion by Fort Worth, Texas, pastor Cecil Sherman. The CBF represents churches and individuals aligned with the moderate movement of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Sherman's motion states that the coordinating council "offer employment to missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in the European sector who fit the criteria of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's statement of missions." The motion passed unanimously.

CBF moderator John Hewett, a North Carolina pastor, denied the council's actions constituted a new denomination. Instead, he said the decision to fund missionaries should be compared to parachurch organizations who support mission work.

"We are a fellowship of churches and individuals," Hewett said. "Our intention is to make sure the good work of our missionaries continues. We will do what we have to do."

Hewett and other members of the council said the action was necessary because of the decision by FMB trustees not to fund the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

In discussion about the motion Sherman, who has been nominated to become CBF executive director, said in light of FMB actions toward the seminary at Ruschlikon, "The only thing that makes sense is a strong

response to the Foreign Mission Board."

Sherman told coordinating council members the time has come to stop marking off the playing field and "get on with the game."

"We have to have the nerve, the faith to go to Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker and say, 'We'll pick up your paychecks and benefits,'" Sherman said.

Sherman said the decision to fund missionaries will "galvanize us. Some (Southern Baptists) will come with us and some won't, but we will be focused outward."

"I am trying to seize the moment with the people we know are good people," Sherman said. "It's time we get past being just a debating society. It's time we take some children to raise."

Collins writes for Southwestern Seminary.



## Powells leave for Zimbabwe

Hiram and Shirley Powell of Mendenhall are to be the field coordinators for the Mississippi-Zimbabwe partnership. They left for Zimbabwe on Jan. 17 and are slated to live there for the duration of the partnership. They were assigned to the administrative posts through the International Service Corps of the Foreign Mission Board, SBC. He previously served as a Foreign Mission board auxiliary personnel worker in Tanzania and she has served as missionary associate in Jordan. (Photo by F. A. Larrimore)

## FMB trustee criticizes Parks

By Thomas Mullen

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — A trustee of the Foreign Mission Board said that if board President Keith Parks had been a businessman, he would have been fired for his recent actions.

Trustee Morris Mills of Memphis, Tenn., said Parks was wrong to allow two retiring employees to hold a Jan. 7 news conference at which they strongly criticized other fundamentalist trustees.

"If he was a corporate executive, he'd be subject to dismissal for that," Mills said in an interview Jan. 10. "I'm very anxious to see why he did that. I don't know what it accomplished. I'm very disappointed, and he shouldn't have done it."

"I'm wondering if he was trying to get himself fired," Mills added.

"Several people have told me that he must want to be fired."

Parks was unavailable for comment.

Parks' future as president is becoming increasingly tenuous since two of his top executives — Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker — said they would retire early because fundamental-

conservative trustees destroyed their careers.

During the news conference at which they announced their retirements, Ballenger and Parker blasted trustees and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Mills said allowing them to do that was a mistake, and another powerful trustee agreed.

A spokesman for Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas and a leader in the fundamental-conservative movement in the denomination, said Parks showed "bad judgment." Observers have said Patterson, whose own future at Criswell is cloudy, is interested in a larger role at the board.

The board's chairman, William Hancock of Louisville, Ky., said trustees should "keep their minds on supporting the current leadership."

But he acknowledged that "will very definitely be a tough job."

Some of them (trustees) have fixed in their minds his retirement," Hancock added. "Add to that some of the personalities... it compounds the

anxiety."

Earlier, Parks said discussions about his future will "intensify" during the next month or so. He said last year that he wanted to remain as president until 1995 to follow through on a missions plan he outlined last summer. He maintained that continuity of leadership was important for the plan's success.

However, sources said a coalition of trustees will present a plan next month to speed up a search committee for Parks' replacement. That same coalition also will say that Parks' leadership is not needed for his mission plan to be successful.

Mills, the Tennessee trustee, said Parks might be thinking too highly of himself by saying his leadership is important to the mission plan.

"We can do it without him," he said. "If this is the Lord's work — and I think it is — it won't depend on one man. Sometimes when men get older they think things can't run without them."

Reprinted with permission from the Richmond NEWS-LEADER.

## Southeastern's president Lewis Drummond, may announce retirement

By Greg Warner

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP) — Lewis Drummond, president of Southeastern Seminary, is expected to announce his retirement at the end of January, according to seminary sources.

Drummond, 65, has been under pressure for some time because of worsening financial and academic conditions at the school, but he has denied he has plans to leave.

Speculation about Drummond's departure has increased since Southeastern was placed on probation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, one of its two accrediting agencies, Dec. 5.

A special meeting of the executive committee of Southeastern's trustees has been set for Jan. 30-31 at the Wake Forest, N.C., campus, during which trustees are expected to hear Drummond's proposal for his departure.

Since becoming president in 1988, Drummond and other administrators have been unable to resolve difficulties between the school's fundamental-conservative trustees and the faculty, most of whom have resisted the trustees' attempt to steer the school in a more conservative direction.

Faculty members say trustee-

sponsored changes, such as hiring only biblical inerrantists for the faculty, violate academic freedom.

Drummond's predecessor, Randall Lolley, resigned in protest of those changes in 1987, setting off investigations by the two accrediting agencies and a swirl of controversy that has yet to subside.

Southeastern's other accrediting agency, the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, has since threatened to remove the school's accreditation.

Meanwhile, the school's enrollment has dropped steadily to less than half its former size, causing serious long-term financial problems.

If Drummond goes through with his plans to retire, trustees would be expected to name a search committee during their regular meeting March 9-10 in Wake Forest.

Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas, is considered the leading candidate for the job. Trustees told ABP Patterson was seriously considered for the Southeastern post before, and some have said recently they would be pleased for him to succeed Drummond.

Warner is editor of Associated Baptist Press.

## High baptisms: why? how?

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — Churches with high baptism rates are those which practice time-tested evangelistic principles, a study of 1,000 Southern Baptist congregations reveals.

The research shows churches with high baptism rates have the following characteristics: a pastor who is committed to frequent personal witnessing, witness training for lay people of all ages, a variety of evangelistic methods, a vision for potential for growth, and a method to identify and visit evangelistic prospects.

"The findings aren't startling, but they confirm some things we've said are keys in increasing evangelism effectiveness," said Steve Whitten, associate director of the Home Mission Board research department who wrote the report.

The survey of 1,000 churches

distinguished 84 "high baptism churches" — those which baptized five or more people per 100 resident members for two consecutive years.

Ninety-one churches were identified as "low baptism churches" — those which baptized one or less person per 100 resident members the same two years. The remaining churches were classified as middle baptism churches.

Three-fourths of pastors of high baptism churches said they witness daily or several times a week. Only 44% of pastors in low baptism churches said they witness that frequently.

Churches with high baptism rates also stress personal evangelism by laity. Eighty-two percent of pastors of high baptism churches said their members would be comfortable tell-

ing a friend about Christ, compared to 66% of pastors in low baptism churches.

One characteristic of low baptism churches is relying on revivals for the primary evangelistic thrust. Pastors of low baptism churches tended to agree with statements such as "revivals are more important in our church than any other evangelistic effort."

Pastors of high baptism churches preferred a variety of evangelistic tools, such as Continuing Witness Training and Disciple Youth.

Another comparison is prospect files. More than 82% of pastors from high baptism churches said their church had an updated prospect file, while 59% of pastors of low baptism churches did not. (See BAPTISMS on page 9)

**MISSIONARY DIES FOLLOWING SURGERY: FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)** — Southern Baptist missionary William Hailey died Jan. 15 in Fort Worth, Texas, from complications following open-heart surgery. He was 60. The pastor of International Baptist Church in Hong Kong, Hailey had flown with his wife, Christine, to the United States Jan. 8 on emergency medical leave. Hailey and his wife were appointed missionaries in 1967 to Indonesia, where he was a student worker. In 1974 the Haileys transferred to Japan, where he was pastor of the Yokohama Baptist Church. They went to Hong Kong in 1981. A native of Dallas, Hailey received the bachelor of arts degree from Southern Methodist University there and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

**FIRE SEVERELY DAMAGES BAPTIST LIBRARY IN GAZA: GAZA (BP)** — Fire virtually destroyed a 10,000-volume Southern Baptist library facility in Gaza — the largest of three public libraries in the Israeli-occupied area. Arson was blamed for the Jan. 9 blaze. The fire at the Center of Culture and Light was denounced by most Palestinian political groups in the territory. But Southern Baptist representatives in Gaza said the arson did not appear to be politically motivated.





Sonya Rohrman, left, helps longtime client Julie Hargrove with bills at Hargrove's home in Jackson.

## Jackson woman meets seniors' needs with special ministry

By Shannon T. Simpson

It's never too early to begin planning for retirement, illness, or loss of a spouse, according to Sonya Rohrman of Jackson.

Rohrman spends most of her time helping people who find the truth of that statement perhaps a little late. Her ministry and livelihood are rolled into one private, non-profit foundation, Living Services, brainchild of the Hattiesburg native and member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

Rohrman, through the foundation, provides needed money management services to widows, seniors, and handicapped persons. She also helps complete and file insurance, Social Security, and tax forms.

"I always thought everyone had someone. I'm amazed at the number of people who have no family, no one around to help them (with money management, sorting out income sources and estates)."

Before beginning her ministry/foundation in January 1988, Rohrman found herself single again, "wanting something fulfilling to do." Though she was not always a career woman, she always had a knack for book work, and had taken accounting courses years earlier.

After she began work at a Jackson CPA firm, she read what she calls mountains of articles about money management. She found herself drawn to material about the needs of senior adults who came to their retirement years ill-equipped financially, or lacking the skills of money management.

With seed money, she eventually left the CPA firm, got the ministry off the ground, and now serves upwards of 60 clients. She sees about 12 on a weekly basis. Most are widows who never had to conduct their personal finances, and feel overwhelmed by financial matters when their husbands die.

"I stress when I talk to these women that they are not dumb, they just never had to keep records, pay bills, or manage an income," says Rohrman.

Her work typically consists of setting up budgets, helping open accounts, file insurance claims, or set up filing systems. She often accompanies clients to the offices of accountants, lawyers, bankers, or attorneys to "interpret."

"I never advise," she says, "I do not make decisions for these people. I only try to show them the best way to do things, the best place to put their money. But the decisions are up to the individuals and their families."

Rohrman tries to involve families of clients as much as possible, not only to smooth the process of record keeping, but to protect herself. "If I were dishonest, I could easily defraud someone," she says, cautiously. "Because I have such an intimate knowledge of their finances, I take somewhat of a risk. But I keep very accurate records to prevent anything like that from happening. One time, I even uncovered an insurance fraud of about \$25,000!"

Each client is asked to make a

donation according to his resources when help from Rohrman begins, but the donation is not required. Monies come from these donations, and from families who make contributions or list the foundation as a memorial. She does not otherwise solicit funds.

"The Lord has blessed us and kept us going," says Rohrman. "He has built us and grown us at just the right pace."

**"So much has to do with the way people prepare themselves for old age. You must seek fulfillment, realize that old age happens, families get scattered. You must find your own motivation for living."** — Sonya Rohrman

Lately, though, Rohrman says she has been praying about whether or not to expand. She says she has hoped the Lord would make someone special available to help in the ministry. The foundation recently hired secretary Diane Bearden on a part time basis, but there is still much work to be done.

"There is no doubt that this was a ministry the Lord gave," she says. "There is such a need for these services. And, it brought together two loves of my life: seniors and book work. It's a beautiful gift. It gives me an outlet for giving to people — and getting fulfillment from them, too."

### FOR HELP

#### Recommended Reading:

**Widows in the Dark**, by Elizabeth Gatov; Common Knowledge Press, 1985.

**But I Never Thought He'd Die**, by Mariam Baker Nye; Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1987.

**Teach Your Wife How to Be a Widow**, edited by Joseph Newman; US News & World Report Books, 1973.

**Survival Handbook for Widows**, by Ruth Jean Loewinsohn; Follett Publishing, Chicago, 1979.

**"Estate Planning Guide, Your Personal Record,"** booklet; published by Annuity Board, SBC. Available from Church-Minister Relations/Annuity, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson. Helps catalog items such as insurance policies, military benefits, bank accounts for written record in event of emergency or death.

#### Tips from Living Services:

Take an inventory of assets.

Keep accurate records.

Maintain a filing system. "What works for a business will work in your home."

Involve the whole family in present and future plans.

Begin now to prepare for retirement.

## Trustee is skeptical of Fellowship offer

By Greg Warner and Robert Dilday.

BURLINGTON, N.C. (ABP) — The Foreign Mission Board will continue its work in Europe despite plans by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to hire away some of the FMB's missionaries, according to a top trustee leader.

Steve Hardy, chairman of the trustee committee that oversees FMB work in Europe, said the work will continue "regardless of what the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship does."

But he said he is skeptical the Fellowship can attract the money necessary to pick up the FMB's European mission work, which this year will receive about \$4.25 million in support from the FMB. The Fellowship's entire 1992 budget for missions is about \$900,000.

Additionally, Hardy said, the Fellowship likely could not provide "accountability to those who pay the bills" and a workable strategy designed for Europe.

"I would question whether you're turning it over to amateurs," said Hardy, pastor of Holly Hill Church in Burlington, N.C.

However, Hardy said he is "not surprised" the Fellowship is considering offering employment to Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker, the FMB's two top administrators in Europe who are resigning in protest of recent trustee actions.

Asked if the Fellowship would be

able to woo away other missionaries in Europe, Hardy said, "I admit I've had a few missionaries call me and discuss with me questions they have because Dr. Ballenger and Dr. Parker resigned."

Hardy said he gave the missionaries the same advice offered by Ballenger and Parker in their resignation statements — "to wait and make their decisions based on what happens rather than make an emotional reaction."

Trustee chairman Bill Hancock of Louisville, Ky, said he doesn't have any idea how many missionaries will leave their posts to join the Fellowship's initiative. "That may be dependent on what Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker choose to do," he said.

"It deeply grieves me that we've reached this position of divisiveness," Hancock said of the Fellowship's plans. "Yet I'm pleased there are options for those (missionaries) who may be discontented with their place of service and the present leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention."

"Hopefully, this diversity will provide opportunities for a more extensive proclamation of the gospel to the people of Europe by the CBF and the SBC," he added.

Warner is editor of Associated Baptist Press and Dilday writes for RELIGIOUS HERALD, Virginia.



## FBC, Senatobia honors Flowers

First Church, Senatobia will honor Pastor and Mrs. John Flowers upon his retirement, with a special 11 o'clock service on Sunday, Jan. 26.

He and his family will be receiving friends at a tea given by the church members, from 2 until 4 p.m., in the Family Life Center on that day, and those who wish to extend their congratulations and best wishes are invited to attend.

## Senate votes for lottery

By Paul Jones

The Senate of Mississippi voted on Thursday, January 16, to set a vote on the deletion of the current constitutional prohibition against a state-operated lottery. The vote was 37 to 12 with one pairing to pass SCR 512 which goes to the House of Representatives. Thus, 37 senators have indicated their belief that a state-operated lottery is necessary. Having taken a sworn oath to obey the constitution and knowing that Article 15, Section 273 of the Mississippi Constitution demands that before they vote on a constitutional amendment they "shall deem any change, alteration, or amendment necessary," each vote must be considered a vote for the lottery.

Members of the House of Representatives will probably vote during the week of January 20-24 on SCR 512. Each of them must also determine if they "deem such amendment necessary." A vote for SCR 512, according to the constitution, must be seen as a vote for a state-operated lottery.

The following is the vote by the Mississippi Senators to place the issue on the November 3 ballot:

**FOR:** Anderson, Armstrong, Bean, Bilbo, Burton, Canon, Cheek, Crook, Dearing, Ferris, Frankiewicz, Gollott, Gunn, Hall, Hamilton, Harden, Harvey, Hewes, Huggins, Jackson, Kirby, Lambert, Lee, Mills, Mohamed, Monty, Posey, Powell, Rayborn, Ready, Robertson, Sledge, Stogner, Welch, J. White, Williams, Woodfield.

**AGAINST:** Bryan, Cobb, Graham, Keeton, Little, Miller, Musgrove, Scoper, Smith, Thames, R. White, Wicker.

**PAIRING:** Minor, no; Jordan, yes.

Jones is executive-director-treasurer, Christian Action Commission, Mississippi Baptist Convention.

## FMB names Crawley as interim VP

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Winston Crawley will become the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's interim vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa effective Feb. 3, according to board president R. Keith Parks.

Crawley, a retired veteran of 40 years of foreign mission work, will fill the spot until a replacement is found for Isam Ballenger, who announced Jan. 7 he would step down in protest of FMB trustee actions and philosophies.

Crawley, 71, who retired in 1987 at age 67, began his overseas career as a missionary, first in China and then in the Philippines from 1947-54. Then he joined the FMB staff as secretary (area director) for the Orient, 1954-68;

director of the former overseas division, 1968-80; and vice president for planning, 1980-87. He has written six books on missions.

O'Brien writes for FMB.

There is nothing wrong in having nothing to say unless you insist on saying it.



# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## Snakes alive! there's a cobra!

By Maxine Stewart

My husband Bob killed another cobra in our yard in Thailand today.

There are about 160 kinds of snakes in Thailand. Only one-fourth of these are said to be dangerous to men and animals. To some of us, though, a snake is a snake — no matter the color or size. We say, "KILL THE SNAKE!"

The most common dangerous snakes to man in Thailand are the king cobra, Siamese cobra, spitting cobra, banded krait, Russell's viper, green pit viper, Malaysian pit viper, and some sea snakes.

More people are bitten by poisonous snakes in Thailand than anywhere else, according to Professor Mukda Trisnanon, Pharmacology Division Chief of Siriraj Hospital, the largest hospital in Thailand. These are mostly farmers and fishermen who are bitten between May and November, the rainy season when farmers work in the fields.

A snake farm was started in Bangkok in 1923 with money from foreigners who lived in the city. It is the second largest snake farm in the world. The largest is in Brazil.

The snake farm produces vaccines and sera. The venom collected from the snakes is used to immunize horses

in the production of anti-venom.

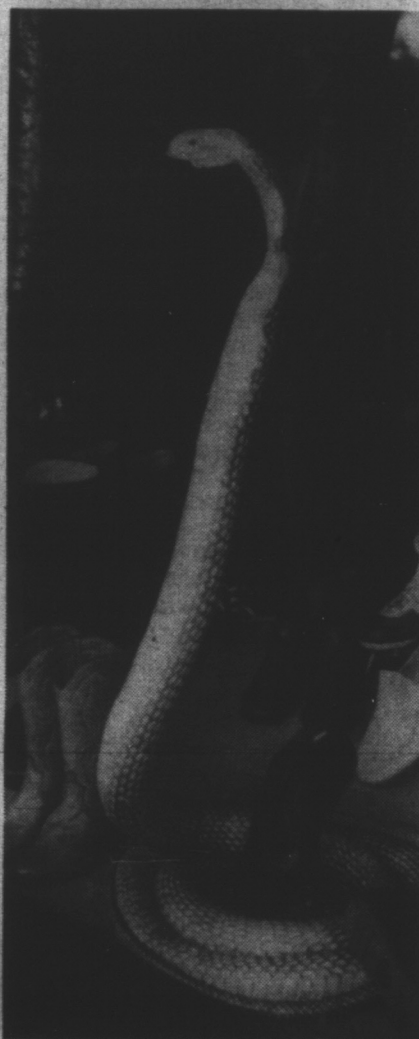
Cobras on the snake farm live a maximum of two years (in captivity), compared to up to 10 years in their natural environment. The weather in the snake farm compound differs from their run of the fields, woods, and YARDS. They usually die from a type of reptile pneumonia, due to changes in the temperature.

The king cobra, longest of all poisonous snakes, can reach more than 15 feet. Bob killed a king cobra in our yard that was longer than he is tall, and he is 6 feet 4 inches. I have seldom seen him sweat more than he did killing that snake! Its venom can kill a man in 20 minutes. Although Asians fear its poison, it is said to be worshipped (by some) from India to Indonesia.

We try to keep the grass cut short in our big yard so that snakes can be more easily seen.

In the Thailand Baptist Mission, only one missionary has been bitten by a snake, and it non-poisonous. Please pray for the continued safety of the missionaries and MKs (missionary kids) in the Thailand Baptist Mission.

Mrs. Stewart is a missionary in Thailand.



A king cobra (the taxidermist has preserved) is in the window of a shoe cobbler (tailor) advertising snake-skin shoes in Bangkok, Thailand. This cobra is about 3 meters long. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)



One of three divisions for keeping snakes on the ground at the snake farm in Bangkok, Thailand. There are "snake shelters" (concrete) available as well as small bushes for the snakes to climb in and a canal of water around the enclosure for them to swim around in the water. The above section is for the Siamese cobras. In the far background is one of the doctors who works at the snake farm who is getting the venom from the snake. Seen inside the snake pit is another man who has a cobra in his hand ready to take up to the doctor for drawing the venom (doctor in white coat). (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

## A Bible Dictionary

Match each phrase below with the picture that shows its meaning. Write your answers on a sheet of paper.

clave the wood  
entreated the Lord

possess the gate of his enemies  
saddled his ass



## Pen Pal Club

Hi!

My name is Emily Alexander. I am 9½ years old. My hobbies are swimming, ballet, cooking, and collecting dolls. Writing letters is also one of my hobbies. If you are 6-12, please write to me.

Yours truly,  
Emily Alexander  
8952 Anahola Place  
Diamondhead, MS 39520

Hi,

My name is Brandy Griffin. I'm 12 years old, and I would like a boy or girl pen pal. I am a member of Parkway Baptist Church and I would love to have a pen pal.

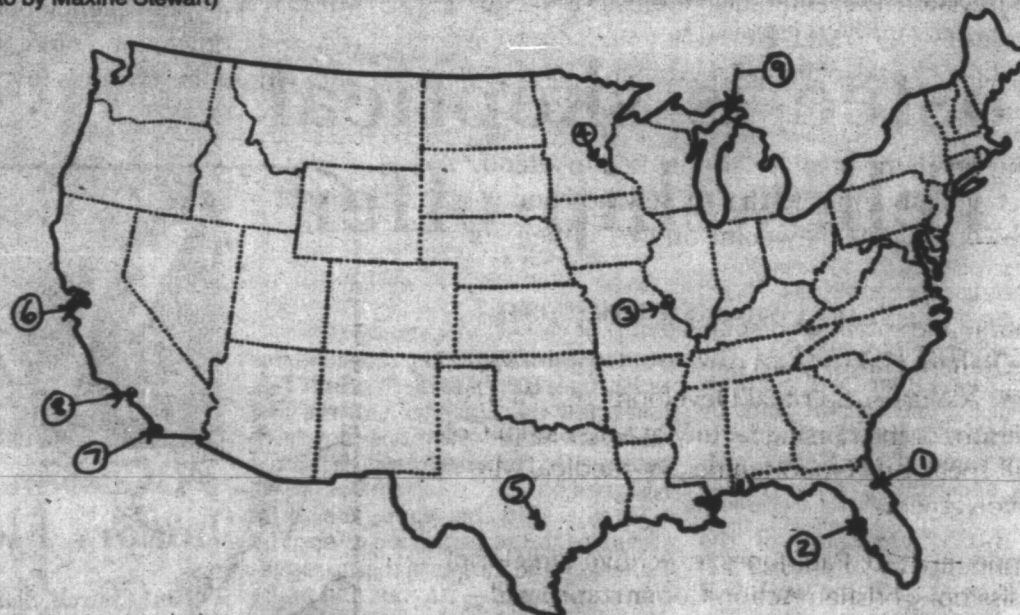
Your pen pal (hopefully)  
Brandy Griffin

My address is:  
207 Oak Lane Circle  
Houston, MS 38851

Dear Sir:

I would like a pen pal from a different country. I live in Quitman, Miss., U.S.A.

Jesicia G. Purvis  
Rt. 1, Box 147  
Quitman, Miss. 39355



© 1990 R. Peterson

## Map Quiz

By Ralph Peterson

Since the U.S. was originally explored by explorers from Catholic countries such as Spain and France, many of our cities are named after their saints. Can you name the numbered cities on the above map of the U.S. which are named after saints?

1. St. \_\_\_\_\_ This city in Florida is the oldest city in the U.S.
2. St. \_\_\_\_\_ This large city lies near Tampa on the gulf coast of Florida.
3. St. \_\_\_\_\_ This city on the Mississippi River is known as "the Gateway to the West." It is the largest city in Missouri.
4. St. \_\_\_\_\_ This city is the capital of Minnesota.
5. San \_\_\_\_\_ The Battle of the Alamo occurred in this Texas city in 1836.
6. San \_\_\_\_\_ This city in northern California is known for its cablecars and the Golden Gate Bridge. A large earthquake occurred here in 1906.
7. San \_\_\_\_\_ This large city in southern California lies on the Pacific Ocean near the Mexican border. A large naval base is located here.
8. Santa \_\_\_\_\_ This city lies west of Los Angeles on the Pacific Ocean. (It is named after the mother of St. Augustine.)
9. Sault Ste. \_\_\_\_\_ This city in the upper peninsula of Michigan was founded by French Jesuits in 1668. ("Sault" means "rapids.")

Answers: 1. St. Augustine 2. St. Petersburg 3. St. Louis 4. St. Paul 5. San Antonio 6. San Francisco 7. San Diego 8. Santa Monica 9. Sault Ste. Marie



# HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 23, 1992

HOUSE TOPS is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## BNF Student Nurses Event

On March 19, 1992, student nurses are invited to a special event where they will be introduced to the Baptist Nursing Fellowship. It will take place at the Baptist Student Center at the



University of Southern Mississippi. Student nurses from USM, Gulf Coast Community College at Perkinston, Jones County Community College, William Carey College, and Pearl River Community College are especially invited.

Lloyd Lunceford, Baptist Student Union director at USM, and Wanda Dubuison, Baptist Nursing Fellowship Nursing Student Liaison, have arranged a special gathering which begins at 3 p.m. and concludes with supper. Cost is \$2 per person. Deadline for registration is March 17. Mail registrations to BNF Student Nurses Event, WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Make checks payable to Woman's Missionary Union.

Career nurses in the area are also invited to attend. The meeting is so arranged that those who cannot attend the entire time may come and go at their convenience.

Registration and missions displays begin at 2 p.m. At 3 p.m., Graham Hales, USM campus chaplain, will speak on "A Nurse's Spiritual Development." At 4:30, Kaye Wilson, of the nursing faculty at Mississippi College, will speak on "Opportunities for Medical Missions Involvement."

After dinner at 5:30, Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Christian Action Commission, will speak on "Issues and Answers for Christian Nurses in the 90's."

Baptist Nursing Fellowship is sponsored by WMU, SBC, and Mississippi WMU. **HT**

### Missions Offerings UpDate 1991 Totals

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
\$1,994,352.12

Edwina Robinson Special Day Offering  
\$68,412.26 (goal was \$63,000)

Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions  
\$646,311.72 (goal was 645,000)

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering  
\$434,931.46 June 1-December 31 (this offering's year is June 1-May 31)

## SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION PAGES

Each year Mississippi is allowed to nominate one Page to serve at the Southern Baptist Convention. If you have a young man who is eligible, we need the nomination by March 1.

Nominees will receive an information form to complete. This form and the church's recommendation will be used in selecting the young man to serve our state.

### GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING SBC PAGES

HSBYM Pages are an important part of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Their contribution to Brotherhood Commission staff, SBC agency personnel, and Convention volunteers with whom they work is invaluable.

The following guidelines are requirements for a young man to be eligible to serve as an SBC Page.

**PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS** - Pages must be active in the High School Baptist Young Men's program of their church.

Pages must be in grades 10-12 during the school year in which they are nominated.

Pages must have completed at least the Base Unit and one additional unit from additional unit from Missions Challenge.

Pages may serve only one year.

**TRAVEL**-Pages are responsible for providing their own travel to and from the convention. The Brother-

hood Commission will assist in securing flight reservations as requested.

Pages are required to attend SBC Page orientation on Saturday, June 6, 1992, at 1:00 p.m. For this reason all Pages must arrive in Indianapolis on Saturday, June 6, 1992, no later than 12:00 noon. Departure should be scheduled for Thursday, June 11, after 4:00 p.m.

**FOOD/LODGING**-will be provided by the Mississippi Brotherhood Department and SBC Brotherhood Commission.

For a nomination form or more information contact the Brotherhood Department at 968-3800. **HT**

## Christian Performing Arts Festival



February 7-9, 1992  
Morrison Heights  
Baptist Church  
Clinton, Mississippi

- Dinner Theater  
Performed by Host Church
- Drama, Music, Clowning, Puppetry classes
- Ministry with Children, Youth and adults



# Theme: The Unchurched: Who, Where, Why

To develop awareness of the study, profiles will be given of unchurched people who need to be reached by new and growing churches. Each profile will include a brief statement of facts on ways the Home Mission Board is helping churches reach the unreached.

Resources: Home Mission Study 1992 Complete Planning Kit, teaching guides and study books (adult: *No Small Sacrifice*; Youth: *Eyewitness*; grades 4-6: *Can You Wear Reeboks to Church?*; grades 1-3: *Leave the Driving to Max*; Preschool, *Foreign and Home Mission Studies*, 1991.

## PRESCHOOL

*Foreign and Home Mission Studies 1991-92: Teaching Guide*. Created for older preschoolers, this guide combines early learning activities, games, and teaching ideas for the Foreign Mission Study and the Home Mission Study to instill a lifetime love for missions.

511-23P \$1.75

## GRADES 1-3

The minute you open *Leave the Driving to Max*, the fun starts. Bright, whimsical illustrations capture the liveliness of this adventure into home missions. With its cut-out bus, funny stickers, and entertaining activities, this sticker and missions activity book could become a treasure in a child's collection.

521-127P \$3.00

Teaching guide 511-22P \$1.75

## GRADES 4-6

Brimming with photographs, imaginative stories and delightful learning activities—hidden pictures, puzzles, riddles, and matching games—*Can You Wear Reebok Shoes to Church* will arouse curiosity, generate enthusi-



*The Unchurched:  
Who, Where,  
and Why?*

**HOME MISSION  
STUDY**

February 16-19, 1992

asm, and give insight into home missions. With this exciting book, children will discover how churches are started—from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., to the rugged outposts of Deer Lodge, Mont.

521-126P \$2.25

Teaching Guide 511-21P \$1.75

## YOUTH

As teens make their way through *eyewitness*, they'll discover 16 colorful pages of inspirational portraits to stretch their understanding of home missions and build skills to live their dreams. This illustrated and photographed glossy tabloid is a must-have for youth.

521-125P \$1.25

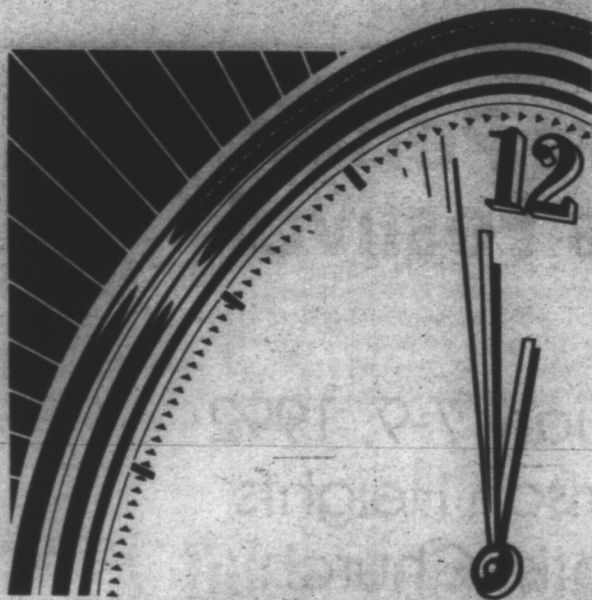
Teaching Guide 511-20P \$1.50

## ADULTS

*No Small Sacrifice*, complete with stunning photographs and compelling stories, documents three innovative approaches to reaching non-Christians by starting churches just for them.

521-124P \$3.00

Teaching Guide 511-19P \$1.50



A retreat designed to help women find time will take place at Camp Lake Stephens near Oxford, February 7-8, 1992.

Theme of the meeting will be "Making Time for Myself, Family and Others... All in God's Time."

Sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, the retreat will feature sessions to help Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women find time for themselves, for their families, for others, and for volunteer missions.

Speakers include Deborah Brunt, writer and conference leader from Oxford; Kathy Burnham, musician from Oxford; Stuart Calvert, writer and conference leader from Ashland; Ashley McCaleb, BW/BYW consultant for Mississippi WMU; Sharon Neff, writer and conference leader from Arcola; Peggy Tubbs, teacher and musician from Oxford; and Joan Tyler, Mississippi WMU president from Collins.

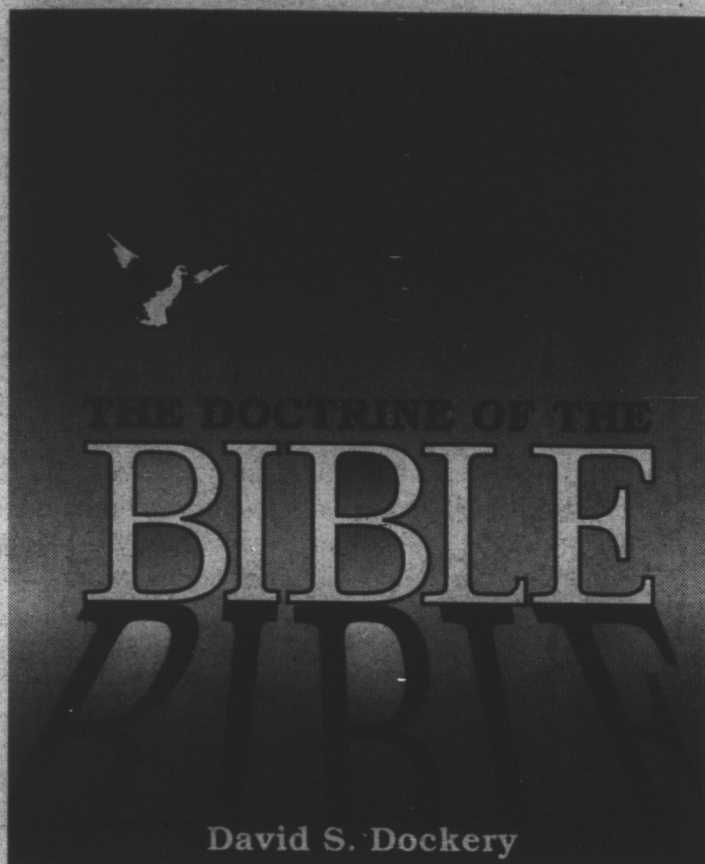
Registration for the retreat begins at 4 p.m., Feb. 7. At that time the Baptist Book Store will be open at the retreat. The retreat ends after lunch the next day. Participants are asked to bring linens, towels, and a pillow.

Cost is \$25 per person. Send registration information to WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Make checks payable to Woman's Missionary Union.

*"Making Time for  
Myself, Family and  
Others... All in God's  
Time."*

**HOUSE TOPS**





The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (Heb. 4:12-13, NIV)

*Embrace God's Word  
through Baptist Doctrine Study*

*Previews 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

**MARCH 16**

North Winona  
FBC McComb

**MARCH 17**

FBC Starkville  
William Carey College

**MARCH 18**

Blue Mt. College  
FBC Gulfport

**MARCH 19**

Mississippi College  
Hernando Baptist

**MARCH 20**

Delta State, BSU  
Clarke College

## 82% of Americans believe that the Bible is inspired; Only 21% study it!

Is it no wonder that we face the moral decline and national dilemmas which are threatening to overwhelm us. We can still see the awesome power of God's word today.

This year's doctrine study on the Bible will give churches all over our convention an opportunity to answer questions such as:

**SESSION 1, CHAPTER 1**

*Did God's revelation end with the New Testament, or does God continue to give new revelation?*

**SESSION 2, CHAPTERS 2-3**

*How do we know that the Bible is inspired?  
Can we obey Christ without obeying Scripture?*

**SESSION 3, CHAPTERS 4-5**

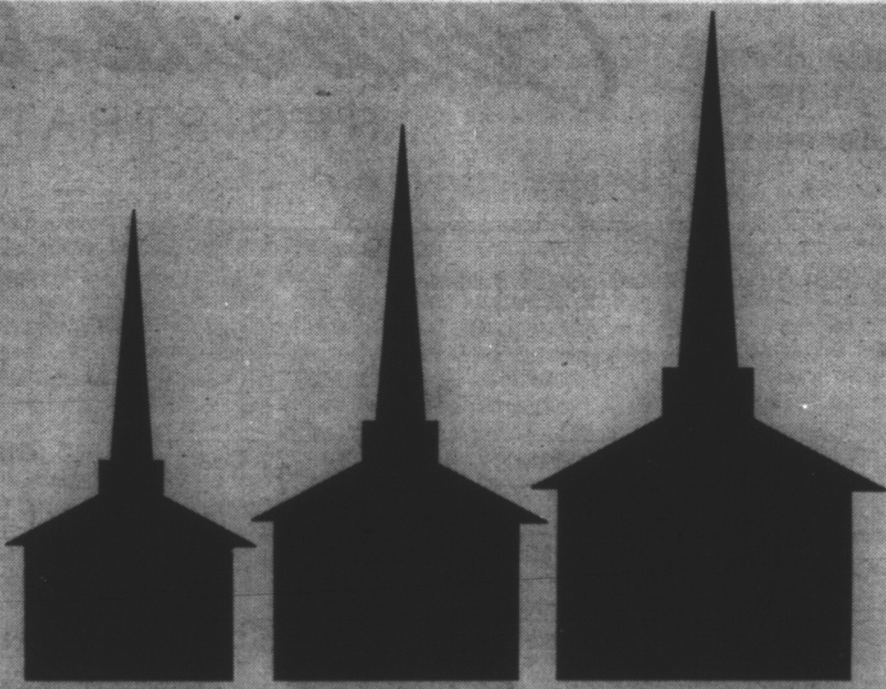
*How can the Bible be both a human Book and a divine Book?  
What do we mean by inspiration?*

**SESSION 4, CHAPTERS 6-7**

*How do we know that the right books were included in the Bible?  
What translations are best?*

**SESSION 5, CHAPTERS 8-9**

*Do the customs of Bible times make the Bible outdated?  
How should we interpret Scripture?  
How much help does Scripture give for life today?*



**Missions:**  
**Reaching People Growing Churches**

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR  
HOME MISSIONS**

**March 1-8, 1992**



## MasterLife Alumni Banquet

Make plans now to attend the MasterLife Alumni Banquet, Monday, January 27, 5:00 p.m. at Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg.

Attendees will enjoy a delicious meal as well as Christian fellowship. Roy Edgemon will be providing an inspirational update. Edgemon is director of the Discipleship Training Department in Nashville, TN.

Registrants should send the ticket fee of \$7.25 to: Discipleship Training Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Make checks payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



## SPACE PROBLEMS?

Cradle Roll and Homebound Ministries are not "housed" in your church building. Take advantage of this!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL GROWTH CONFERENCES February 10-13

•How to start a Cradle Roll and Grow, led by Ann Liles, Sunday School Board

•How to start a Homebound Ministry and Grow, led by James Berthelot, Sunday School Board



### FEBRUARY 10

7-9:15 p.m. West Jackson BC, Tupelo

### FEBRUARY 11

7-9:15 p.m. First Baptist, Columbus

### FEBRUARY 12

9:30-11:30 a.m. First Baptist, Meridian  
**not Jackson**

### FEBRUARY 13

7-9:15 p.m. First Baptist, Gulfport

National Convocation on  
the Bible:  
A Celebration Event  
April 21-23, 1992  
Nashville, Tennessee

## Celebrate the Bible

### REGISTRATION FORM

National Convocation on  
the Bible:  
A Celebration Event  
April 21-23, 1992  
Nashville, Tennessee

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(for group registrations, please attach a list of names of all persons being registered.)

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person (for group registration only.) \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEES(S)** The basic fee of \$60.00 person includes the following items: All Celebrations • All Conferences • Riverfront Gospel Gathering (box supper) • Admission to the Celebration Gathering Place

**BIBLE FELLOWSHIP DINNERS** (Thursday evening) An additional fee of \$14.00 per person should be added to attend one of the Thursday evening Bible Fellowship Dinners.

**NOTE** One minister from the church staff will have the basic registration fee (\$60.00) waived if the minister attends with a group of 10 or more persons from the minister's church.

☐ Check here if applicable.

If this same minister plans to attend one of the Thursday evening Bible Fellowship Dinners, be sure to enclose \$14.00 for that dinner.

☐ Check here if applicable.

Please indicate on the appropriate line the number of persons being registered:

Registration Fee: \$60.00

( \_\_\_\_\_ ) **X \$60 =** \_\_\_\_\_ **total**

**Total Number of Participants** \_\_\_\_\_ **total**

Bible Fellowship dinner \$14.00

( \_\_\_\_\_ ) **X \$14 =** \_\_\_\_\_ **total**

**Total Number of Participants** \_\_\_\_\_ **total**

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check(s) payable to Baptist Sunday School Board:

**No refunds after March 1, 1992**

Substitutions will be permitted on valid pre-registration(s)

Mail this form, group list (if applicable), and payment to:

**National Convocation on the Bible**

P.O. Box 24001

Nashville, Tennessee 37203

For additional NCOB registration information call: 615/251-3997

**NOTE: NO CHILD CARE PROVISIONS WILL BE MADE.**

On receipt of your registration form and fee, a housing reservation form and information on reduced air fares will be mailed to you. Early registration can ensure a wider choice of housing.

**REGISTER NOW for the Bible Celebration of the Decade!**

# HOUSELIONS





At a December revival in Nigeria, from left, S. O. Acho, Frank Cayson, and Estus Pirkle hold posters which advertised the crusades.

## Pirkle and Cayson hold crusade in Nigeria

Estus Pirkle, pastor of Locust Grove Church, Union Association for 26 years, and Frank Cayson, evangelist in First Church of Pontotoc, recently held crusades in Aba and Enugu, Nigeria in which over 10,000 Nigerians made professions of faith.

People walked great distances to come and stand for three hours to hear the gospel. Some nights there were only 5,000 to 6,000 but as the crusades continued the crowds grew to 10,000 to 20,000.

On Dec. 1, it was estimated there were over 50,000 people present. Pirkle and Cayson said they had never personally seen anything like it in their ministries. Cayson has been preaching for 30 years and Pirkle for 43 years.

The two went to Nigeria at the invitation of Nigerian S. O. Acho. Acho came to the United States at the encouragement of Pirkle for theological training, and received both his master's and doctor's degrees.

In returning to Nigeria, he found a charismatic movement in evangelistic churches in Nigeria. He feels crusades like the one held in his hometown of Enugu and in Aba, where he had established a church before he came to the United States, will help stem the tide of those who feels are leading his people away from the true gospel. He plans to hold such crusades three or four times a year in major cities throughout Nigeria.

Pirkle and Cayson say they look forward to other crusades in Nigeria.

## Tears, thanks greet Russia food plane

WASHINGTON (BP) — Tears of joy and expressions of thankfulness greeted a World Airways DC-10 plane with 132,000 pounds of food when it arrived in Moscow Jan. 4.

This mission of mercy was the result of the joint efforts of the Leesburg (Va.) Baptist Church and the Baptist World Alliance through its division of Baptist World Aid.

Paul Montacute, director of Baptist World Aid, made a 48-hour roundtrip from Washington to Moscow to witness the arrival and the unloading of the food Jan. 5. Montacute also videotaped the unloading of the plane and interviewed Russian Baptists who were helping.

"I was crying when I saw the food," said one man named Alex from the Moscow Baptist church who worked from the time the plane landed to midnight to unload the 60-pound bags of food. Montacute told him there were also tears of joy when the plane left Washington.

"We thank the Lord for you and for what you have done to help Russian Baptists in our extreme difficulties," Alex said. "God gave you the chance to help Russian people and you turned your hands to help us. God will give you more for this."

"I am so glad for this," said another young man named Vladimir. "I do not have milk and bread."

The expressions of thankfulness were matched by the hard work of the men from the Moscow Baptist church who, supervised by Sergei Rebrov, one of the pastors of the Moscow Baptist church, unloaded the food in a steady downpour of rain and snow.

## Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

## From the mail bag . . .

### Still quilting

A note from Lucille Cannon at Bruce was written on the Christmas card she sent me: "Today I have been quilting for Mexico missions. We did seven today and have 32 quilts in all to send there. The need is great and God can fill it if we are committed to the task."

### A van for the Spanish

A news note in Calhoun Association's bulletin for January says that Pittsboro Church has donated its old van to the association for use in its ministry to the Spanish-speaking people who live in the county or who work there at intervals. The note adds, "Thanks to Jerry Baker for purchasing the tag and transferring the title for the van. Thanks also to Oldtown Church for helping us arrange for insurance on the van." Wayne Gullett is director of missions for Calhoun.

### Gas station encounter

Grady Crowell, director of missions, Clarke Association, wrote in a recent associational bulletin: "I intended to attend prayer meeting at the Union Baptist Church in north Clarke County on my way home from Mom's house last night. A blessed and strange thing happened. I stopped to get gas and a couple who had stopped there began to ask me questions about myself and my beliefs. Some way I could not leave as I had planned in order to get to prayer meeting at Union. Then I felt the Lord had a purpose in the delay. He let me witness, with a balance of care and candor, to the young man who prayed with me to be saved. Please pray for him to grow in Jesus."

### Help to handicapped

James and Guinevere Young, missionaries to Bangladesh, in their Christmas letter included the item: "Tongi, a town just north of Dhaka, is the site of an 'old' project of our Mission's. Handicapped men with two good arms and at least one good eye come for a brief carpentry course that can be their transition from street begging to carpentry apprenticeship. Eighteen are students there now for four months."

### A new baby

A year or two or three ago I wrote a column about a wedding at Midway Church, Jackson, of a young Chinese couple: "Taiwan marries India at Midway." We printed their wedding picture, too. Now they are students at

Southwestern Seminary and have a baby girl, Chingri. Their Christmas card to me enclosed a picture. She's a doll! Edward and Shary Shimray live at 4725 Stanley Ave., Fort Worth, Texas 76115.

### Without the Empty Tomb

Over a long period, Ruby Singley of Columbia wrote quite a few poems that we published in the Baptist Record, usually in "Scrapbook." One that appeared on our front page, Easter issue, 1989, "Without the Empty Tomb," drew favorable comments from a Baylor professor and others. Later it was published in a newspaper, The Columbian Progress, and in a book produced by World of Poetry, Sacramento, Calif. Last summer Ruby was invited to read this poem at a Bible conference on the Gulf Coast, as it fitted in perfectly with one speaker's message. Then, in September, she told me in a recent letter, she (at the invitation of World of Poetry) traveled to New York City to read this poem at a World of Poetry convention held at the Marriott Marquis. She said, "My purpose in going was to read it as a witness and testimony to the Lord."

### Self Creek plans trip to Canada

Self Creek Church in Oktibbeha Association will host a group trip to Toronto, Canada the week of spring break. They will leave Starkville on March 7 and return March 14.

"The purpose is a time of fellowship," said the pastor, Don R. Vaughan. "We will have devotional times together during the time of travel. No smoking will be allowed on the bus."

Self Creek is inviting members from other churches to go along.

For complete details, call Pastor Vaughan at 324-1120 or 323-9692.

"Monday night on the trip we will spend the night in a motel next to Niagara Falls," said Vaughn. "This could be a second honeymoon trip for husbands and wives who have always wanted to go to Niagara Falls."

### News from Italy

Flora and Bob Holifield, missionaries to Italy, wrote:

"Edna Halpin, 86, secretary who came to Italy for a visit and stayed on to work at the Baptist Orphanage, is doing great and is still working 8 to 10 hours a day."

## Magnolia, Laurel to celebrate 50th

By Rebecca Patrick

When a couple celebrates its 50th wedding anniversary, it's a big event. When a body of believers remains intact as a church unit for 50 years, it's also a major reason to celebrate.

That's exactly what the members of Magnolia Church in Laurel intend to do Feb. 28-March 1, 1992. A series of special services, including dinner-on-the-grounds Sunday, has been planned by the 50th Anniversary Steering Committee and the pastor, Carl Dickerson.

On March 1, 1942, the church was organized under the name Beacon Church as a mission of First Church, with 66 charter members under leadership of B. E. Massey. The name was selected, in part, to reflect the fact that the church faced Beacon Street.

The members first met in a tent and then in a concrete block building constructed by the men of the Brotherhood.

In 1954, the name was changed to Magnolia Street Church, when an auditorium and education facility were planned to face the opposite direction of the original one. They were completed by 1962.

By 1963, total church enrollment had peaked at just over 1,370. The next several years saw Magnolia Street go through a transitional period as the membership found its church building located in a changing community.

Several options were explored over the course of the following 20 years. Despite declining total enrollment, the church continued to hold its own financially.

During the tenure of Frank Harmon in the late 1970s, the church bought 20

acres of land on Wansley Road in west Laurel. Construction was completed in 1983 during the pastorate of David Sellers.

While the temporary auditorium was being built, the church held services at both the Magnolia Street location and the Wansley Road location. Services on Wansley Road were held in a trailer provided by the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The full membership made the intact move. The church voted simply to drop "Street" from its name and remain Magnolia Church. Since that time, membership has stabilized at just over 1,000.

Two phases of the projected three-part building program have been completed and paid for. A softball field used by the Jones County Church League has been constructed at the back of the property. Eventually, the church plans to build a permanent sanctuary.

During the three-day celebration, the six surviving former pastors of the church will bring messages.

Services on Feb. 28 and Feb. 29 will begin at 7 p.m.

On Friday, the theme will be "The Church Reaching Out — What the Church Does." Damon Vaughn will speak on witnessing and Tom Sumrall will talk on ministry.

The Saturday service will focus on "The Church Reaching Out — What the Church Is." Clyde Little and Wayne DuBose will be the speakers.

Sunday's services will reflect the theme, "The Church Reaching Out — Where Do We Go From Here?" Harmon will speak during the 10:30 a.m. service and Sellers will speak at 4

p.m.

Dinner-on-the-grounds will be held between services on Sunday. Special music will also be presented between services featuring current and former members. Current minister of music Gloria Ladner and former minister of music Floyd Grice will be in charge of the music during the three-day event.

For more information on the 50th anniversary celebration, contact the church office by calling 649-5660 or writing Magnolia Baptist Church, 1040 Wansley Road, Laurel, MS 39440.

Patrick is a member of Magnolia Church.

1914 — Clarke College as given to the Baptist Convention. ple who live in the county or who

## Colleges log decade of growth

By Tim Fields

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist colleges and universities showed an overall increase in fall enrollment for the 10th consecutive year according to figures released to the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Enrollment figures for the 1991 fall semester show 113,262 students attended Southern Baptist colleges and universities, a 2.4% increase over the 1990 total of 110,605.

The enrollment figures include both

full- and part-time students in college credit courses, but not students in non-credit courses.

Enrollment statistics were released to the commission by each school.

A compilation of the figures shows 33 of the 53 colleges and universities had increases in enrollment ranging from 22.7% to 0.3%.

The last time overall enrollment in Southern Baptist colleges and universities decreased was in 1981, when enrollment was 91,602, a drop of less

than 1% over the previous year.

The increased enrollment for the past decade means that 21,660 more students attended the 53 Southern Baptist colleges and universities during the fall 1991 term than in fall 1981, a net increase of 23.6%.

Baptist colleges in Mississippi — Blue Mountain College, 381, up 6.7%; Mississippi College, 3,771, up 2.8%; William Carey College, 1,672, up 6.2%.

Fields is director of communication, Education Commission.



# Just for the Record



Students at Clarke College turned on individual lights in the Lottie Moon Star, which is a tradition at Clarke College. The star was lit during advent chapel services in Lott Fine Arts Building on campus. Each star represented \$26, with the large center star representing \$90. The CC Lottie Moon goal is \$1,000. At present, approximately \$950 has been received.

Easthaven Church, Richland, will host a musical concert featuring the Stringer's Gospel Quartet, at 7 p.m. on Jan. 25. A fellowship will be held following the concert.

A Southern Baptist mission church in Honduras has need of a sound system. Contact Jerry Smith, Grace Memorial Baptist Church, 405 Ninth St., Slidell, LA 70458, or call 1-504-643-6017. The mission has a small savings set aside for this purpose.

A program for presentations of Mission Adventure Badge #1 was recently held at First Church, Marion. GAs pictured are Melissa Rawson, Kelly Tidewell, Emmie Solie, Mary Meadows, and Renee Carroll. Walter M. Blackman is pastor.



Pictured are members of Clarke-Venable Church, Decatur, who provided live scenes in the events in Christ's birth. These scenes were part of the live presentation of the birth of Christ given during Christmas on the Circle on the Clarke College campus Dec. 5. Approximately 300 guests attended the outdoor presentation which was provided by Newton County Baptist churches.



Petal-Harvey Church, Petal, recently had a note burning ceremony to celebrate the final payment on its sanctuary and educational building. The note for \$800,000 was made April 10, 1978. Those pictured, left to right, are members of the original building committee: Lynn Cartledge, Bill Sansing, Gerald Buckley, pastor, Ed Walker, and Zolzie Stevens.



New Hope Church, Foxworth, recognized its members with perfect attendances in Sunday School ranging from 1 year to 36 years. Pictured are, first row: Tiffany Kroner (3 years); Dustin Stringer (9 years); and Seth Stringer (13 years); second row: Kim Lowery (7 years); Brandie Magee (11 years); Jeff Brumfield (3 years); Kenny Brumfield (3 years); Mitchell Ratliff (1 year); Will Stovall (5 years); third row: Kristen White (5 years); Patsy Lowery (3 years); B. B. Stringer (36 years); Peggy Stringer (4 years); Nancy Thomas (1 year); fourth row: Pud Stringer (4 years); Mark Kroner II (1 year); Julie Lowery (10 years); April Stringer (12 years); and Jimmy Thomas (22 years).

R. L. and Beth Sigrest will be special guests at West Ellisville Church, Ellisville, Jan. 26. They will sing in Sunday morning services and will present a concert on Sunday evening. Dwight L. Smith is pastor.

First Church of Byram will host a Communication Skill Workshop (for reaching people who drop out of church and those who are prospects). The workshop will be taught by Dorothy Frady of Cullman, Ala. The times are Jan. 31, 7-8:30 p.m. and Feb. 1, 8:30 a.m.-12 Noon. For more information, call 372-3156.

## Calvary, Pascagoula will burn note

Twenty-two years ago, Calvary Church, Pascagoula, under leadership of Byron Mathis, pastor, built a new sanctuary at the cost of \$278,000 plus a pipe organ and other furnishings. The building is of colonial exterior and modified colonial interior. Recently the indebtedness was paid off by the church.

On Jan. 26, the church will have a homecoming and noteburning celebration of victory. The celebration will begin at the 11 a.m. service, continue with dinner on the grounds, and conclude with the 1:30 p.m. noteburning service.

Mathis will be the featured speaker for the 11:00 a.m. service; Mrs. Joyce Mathis will lead the sanctuary choir; James Miller will return to lead the congregational singing; and Buddy Mathis will present instrumental benedictions at both services. Mrs. Claudia Hawkins, pianists, and John Rosonet, organist, will accompany the choral and congregational singing, and play the offertories. Hubert Greer, music evangelist, will return to sing for the noteburning.

## Staff changes

North Batesville Church, Panola Association, has called Curt Davis as minister of music, effective Jan. 5. He is a native of Georgia. His previous place of service was Courtland Church, Courtland. Rick Glidewell is pastor.

Trinity Church, Laurel, has called Alton Ronald (Rusty) Thomaston as minister of music and youth, effective Jan. 1. A native of Gautier, he received his education at William Carey College.

Talmadge Rayborn has resigned as pastor of Riverside Church, Gulf Coast Association. He is available for interim and supply work. Sam Parker is serving as interim.

Woolmarket Church, Gulf Coast Association, has called Jeff Holeman as interim minister of youth. He is a student at New Orleans Seminary and formerly served at First Church, Calhoun City.

Shoreline Park, Gulf Coast Association, has called Rodney Smith as pastor. He formerly served as pastor of Faithview Church.

## Revival dates

Tishomingo Church (Tishomingo): Jan. 26-29; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Burczynski, Trinity Church, Moscow, Idaho, evangelist; Phillip Parker, Tishomingo Church, music; Eugene Tension, interim pastor.

## Gulf State senior adults will meet at 1st, Jackson

The Gulf States Baptist Senior Adult Convention will take place Mar. 30-April 1 at First Church, Jackson. Theme of the conference is "Living in His Image."

The program is sponsored by convention leaders in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas.

Featured on the program will be First Church's pastor, Frank Pollard; Frank Stagg, professor emeritus at Southern Seminary, now living on the Mississippi coast; Bill Tanner, a former Mississippi pastor and now executive director of the Oklahoma Baptist Convention; and William Thorn, a Baptist minister and humorist from San Angelo, Tex.

Sid Buckley, a concert vocalist and

a professor at New Orleans Seminary, will direct the music and sing. The instrumentalists are Jerry Aultman, a professor at New Orleans Seminary, and his sister, Eva Hart, music assistant at First Church, Jackson.

A senior adult choir of church groups from Hinds-Madison Association will provide special music.

For detailed information about the convention, write or phone the Discipleship Training Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone (601) 968-3800. To register, send \$12 per person to the above address. Information about hotels, restaurants, parking, and attractions is being sent to all who register.

## Names in the news

NEW ORLEANS — Donald G. South Jr. from Batesville received the master of divinity degree Dec. 20 at New Orleans Seminary. South is married to the former Cathy DePriest of Clinton. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donnis South Sr. of Nixa, Mo.

Will Berger of Ripley will present organ recitals at the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Episcopal churches in Holly Springs, as part of the Holly Springs Garden Club Pilgrimage, April 10, 11, and 12. This year's pilgrimage will be the 54th at Holly Springs. For more information about times and dates of Berger's recitals and the historic houses to be open during the pilgrimage, contact the Holly Springs Chamber of Commerce, 154 South Memphis St., Holly Springs, MS 38635 (phone 601-252-2943), or write to Mrs. Walter W. Webb, Holly Springs Garden Club, P. O. Box 696, Holly Springs.

NEW ORLEANS — Scott Kellum from Oxford received the master of divinity degree Dec. 20 at New Orleans Seminary. Kellum, minister of youth and activities at First Church, Vidalia, La., is married to the former Cathy Crocker of Water Valley. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Kellum of Oxford. Kellum's home church is Anchor Church in Water Valley.

Sidney William Thompson received the master of divinity with biblical languages degree from Southwestern Seminary during commencement exercises held Dec. 20. Thompson is the son of the late Sidney Thompson and Hazel Foster of Union. His home church is Neshoba Church in Union. He is pastor of Center Point Church in Weatherford, Texas.

Billy Graham underwent outpatient surgery on his left foot Jan. 3 at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. The clinic has announced that the procedure was without complications and that Graham is expected to have an uneventful recovery. The evangelist had been at Mayo Clinic since Dec. 26 for his annual physical examination, as he has done for more than 40 years. Graham's doctors have told him that his 1991 schedule — one of his busiest in recent years — was too heavy. In reevaluating his itinerary for the coming year, Graham said he plans to cut back and devote more time to his family and his memoirs. Crusades planned for 1992 include Philadelphia, Penn.; Portland, Oregon; the former Soviet Union; along with a number of other possibilities.

First Church, Jackson, will conduct a seminar on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, featuring Florence and Fred Littauer.



The sessions will be held on Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m.-12 noon. A continental breakfast will be included with the Saturday morning sessions. Florence Littauer has written numerous books that focus on personal and spiritual growth. She is the founder of CLASS (Christian Leaders and Speakers Seminars) and has earned the Hall of Fame Award from the National Speakers Association. The cost of the seminar is \$10. For more information call First Church at 949-1948.

Harold C. Sauls Jr., Richton, received a bachelor of theology degree from Florida Baptist Theological College, Graceville, Fla., on Dec. 20.

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## Dockery is leading candidate to become seminary's dean

By Art Toalston

NASHVILLE (BP) — David S. Dockery, general editor of The New American Commentary by Broadman Press, is the leading candidate to become dean of the school of theology at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., seminary officials have confirmed.

Provost Larry L. McSwain said Jan. 17 Dockery will be interviewed by the seminary's faculty Jan. 24 as part of the process for election to the faculty and appointment as dean.

"It's a little early (for an official announcement) but word has gotten out," McSwain told Baptist Press, "and we're delighted" that Dockery may return to the seminary.

Dockery, 39, as assistant professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern from 1988-91, served "with incredible distinction," McSwain said. "We think David Dockery will be an excellent dean for the school of theology. He is a highly competent teacher and scholar," McSwain added he believes Dockery will receive strong support from the seminary's faculty, trustees, and alumni.

From 1984-88, Dockery was professor of theology and New Testament at Criswell College and associate pastor of First Church in Dallas. He was pastor of Metropolitan Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., from 1982-84.

Toalston writes for BSSB.

## Seminar set for experienced education ministers

NASHVILLE — Stress, ministerial burnout and relational skills are just a few of the issues to be addressed at the Advanced Minister of Education Conference Feb. 17-20 in Nashville.

Designed for experienced ministers of education, the conference will be held at the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Program Training Center. The registration fee is \$66.

Discussion topics will include: Stress in Ministry, Security for the Ministry Is . . . Staying Marketable as a Minister, Working with Peer Ministers, Making the Most of Your Career and Levels of Accountability.

For registration information, call the CPTC office at (615) 251-2294.

1891 — The Sunday School Board was established to provide literature for the Southern Baptist churches. The Sunday School Board helped to build a strong denominational spirit.

## Lottie Moon goals met

New Hope Church, Foxworth, exceeded its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal this past December.

First Church, Florence, exceeded its \$16,000 Lottie Moon goal by Dec. 22. To date \$18,016.54 has been given. This is the largest amount ever given by the church. The largest Cooperative Program check in the history of the church was also given from December receipts.

Immanuel Church, Greenwood, set its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal at \$3,600 and received \$5,549.60. Mrs. Joe Abrams is WMU director and Dennis McKay is pastor.

Fredonia Church, New Albany, gave \$5,247 to the Lottie Moon Foreign Mission Offering. This marked the fifth consecutive year of record giving to foreign missions. Members were challenged to give the equivalent of one day's wages to foreign missions. In addition to Cooperative Program and associational mission giving, the church provides monthly support to a Southern Baptist congregation in Illinois, where Gregg Thomas, pastor, and members of the Fredonia Church participated in a mission project last summer.

## Golden Gate graduates Mississippian

MILL VALLEY, CA — A Mississippi Baptist was among 38 students who graduated in December from Golden Gate Seminary in California. Daud John Omarkhail earned a master of divinity. Omarkhail earned his bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College.

Graduates were challenged by Michael Dean, pastor of Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth, Tex., to mark their ministries with integrity and authenticity. President William O. Crews gave the charge to the graduates, who represented 14 states and five countries.

Thursday, January 23, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

## Kentucky couple spreads electronic evangelism

By Mark Wingfield

HENDERSON, Ky. (BP) — Electronic evangelism took a different channel when a Kentucky couple used a CB radio to share their faith.

Frank DeClue, pastor of Ambassador Church in Henderson, baptized Dwight and Marsha Rideout earlier this month after they heard the gospel presented on the CB by church members Norman and Carolyn Conrad.

The Conrads, both in their 40s, are disabled and not able to get out as much as they would like. But Conrad said that doesn't stop them from talking about the many things Jesus Christ has done for them.

"These people showed you can witness from your home," DeClue said. "If you can't get out, there are other ways you can witness."

Conrad suffers from a back injury, diabetes, and other health problems. She has a severe case of Lupus that prevents her from getting out of the house most of the time.

About a year ago, the couple started talking to the Rideouts on their CB at night. The Conrads have been avid CBers since 1975.

"We just started witnessing to them about the Lord Jesus Christ," Conrad

explained, "and now we have two new members added to our church."

"The conversation between us lasted close to a year, and then it kind of went from a casual conversation once in a while on the CB to me witnessing to them about the Lord and my wife doing the same. Then Brother DeClue and I went to their home and presented the Lord to them. They asked the Lord to come into their hearts and save them right there on the spot."

The Conrads often talk about God on the CB, he said, but this is the first time they have seen such dramatic results.

"Sometimes you get talked to rather harshly," he explained.

"We've been told to get that kind of stuff off the radio, that they didn't want to hear it."

Conrad said he and his wife never know how many people are listening to their witness: "When you key the mike, you may be talking to one person or to 150. . . . A lot of times a person will come in and make a comment on their own. They've just been listening to what we were saying."

Wingfield is news director of Western Recorder, Kentucky.

## BAPTISMS

From page 3

churches reported an updated prospect file.

The study revealed a relationship between the church's size and its baptism rate. High baptism churches tended to be larger, with 16% having more than 500 members. Low baptism churches tended to be smaller, with 60% reporting fewer than 149 members.

Location also affected baptism rates. Fifty-six percent of the high baptism churches were in states where Southern Baptist work is new.

Only one-fourth of the low baptism churches were in new convention areas.

The size of the community also impacted baptism rates to some extent. Forty-four percent of low baptism churches were found in settings described as "open country and villages." Only 2% of the low baptism churches were in cities of 50,000 or more.

Almost 16% of the high baptism churches were in cities of 50,000 or more. However, 18% of the high baptism churches were classified as open country or village.

Yet church size and location "need not determine a church's evangelistic effectiveness," Whitten said.

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

## Mississippian joins Glorieta staff

GLORIETA, N.M. — Ray Ezelle of Jackson has joined the staff of Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center as marketing representative.

Glorieta director Larry Haslam said Ezelle will be working primarily with western region states to market non-summer conference activities to Baptist and non-Baptist groups.

Ezelle joined the conference center staff Jan. 2. Previously, he was permanent placement director for Olsten Services in Jackson. Prior to that he worked for Lucas Associates of Dallas, and Outdoor Communications Inc., of Meridian.

He was also district executive for Boy Scouts of America while in Meridian.

Ezelle is a 1985 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

## capsules

**RESEARCH FINDS AVAILABILITY OF GUNS IS KEY FACTOR IN SUCCESS OF SUICIDES:** LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Guns are twice as likely to be found in the homes of teenage suicide victims than in the homes of teens who attempt suicide but fail, the Journal of the American Medical Association reports. "The availability of guns in the home . . . appears to increase the risk for suicide among adolescents," concludes the study by David Brent and his colleagues at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in Pittsburgh. Their study of 141 teenagers is reported in the Dec. 4, 1991, issue of the medical journal. "The doubling in the adolescent suicide rate over the past three decades is largely accounted for by an increase in firearms suicides," the researchers state.

**SUPREME COURT SETS REVIEW ON RELIGIOUS SOLICITATION:** WASHINGTON (ABP) — In a case that could have significant implications for evangelistic efforts on government-owned property, the nation's top court has agreed to decide whether solicitation of funds and distribution of literature may be banned from airport terminals. The U.S. Supreme Court announced Jan. 10 that it will review a federal appeals court ruling that in-person solicitation of funds by a religious group can be banned in airport terminals but that distribution of literature, viewed as a less-disruptive activity, must be allowed. Attorneys for the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) challenged a ban on solicitation and literature distribution implemented by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in terminals at the three major New York area airports. After a lower court struck down the ban as unconstitutional, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued the divided ruling, upholding literature distribution but allowing airport officials to prohibit solicitation.

**"FLOWERS TO THE GLORY OF GOD":** JACKSON — The Flower Guild of the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle presents Sandra S. Hynson, head emerita of the Washington National Cathedral Altar Guild, in a flower lecture/demonstration on Saturday, March 28. Mrs. Hynson, author of *Homage through Flowers* and *Flowers to the Glory of God*, has been dubbed the Julia Childs of flower arranging. Using a slide presentation, she will lecture from 10 a.m. - noon on effective flower arrangements used in the National Cathedral. From 2-4 p.m., she will demonstrate the effective use of local materials, and help participants see how they can benefit from flowers and greens in their own gardens. Cost of the seminar, which includes lunch served at the Holiday Inn Downtown, is \$45. For more information, contact the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle, P. O. Box 57, Jackson, MS 39205, 969-3125.

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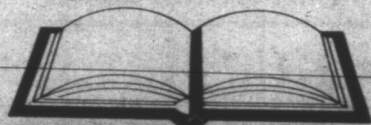


## Parkway, Natchez will host single adult conference

The annual Single Adult Conference will be held Friday night and Saturday, Jan. 31-Feb. 1 at Parkway Church, Natchez. The non-denominational conference is sponsored by Adams Association. Emphasis this year will be "Single — But Not Alone."

Conference titles this year will be: Divorce and Its Effects On Children; Single — But Not Alone; Single Parenting; Knowing God's Will; Opportunities For Singles and Aging Parents.

Leaders will be: Betty McBride; Fred Mallory; Horace Kerr, Family Ministries director, Mississippi Baptist Convention; David Waddell, minister of activities, First Church, Natchez; Dale Little, director of missions, Adams-Union Associations; Talmadge Smith, director of missions, Lincoln Association; Benny McBride, minister of education, Parkway Church, Natchez; Norris Curry, pastor, Washington Church, Natchez; Kaye Scott, minister of music, Washington Church; and Randy Turner, pastor, Parkway Church.



**BAPTIST MEN'S DAY**  
JANUARY 26, 1992  
MISSIONS INVOLVEMENT THROUGH  
EMBRACING THE WORD

Some scholars believe Jesus was 5'6" — four inches taller than the average Middle Eastern male of Old Testament times.

## WMU

From page 3  
tians and members of the SBC community. The presence of WMU in a church is a healthy thing for the church. Properly understood and managed, WMU groups and their members can be a tremendous asset to a pastor. WMU may be, as some have suggested, not only the 'missions conscience' of the SBC, but also its 'loving heart.'

Based on research findings from all five phases, WMU will launch a campaign in April in 15 states to build awareness about WMU. A four-page, four-color insert will be inserted in regional editions of five magazines: Family Circle, Woman's Day, Parents Magazine, Better Homes and Gardens, and Good Housekeeping.

The insert will appear in most of these magazines in the following states — Texas, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Mississippi, Kentucky, Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Arizona, and New Mexico.

## Parks speaks

In his address, Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks identified five missions education challenges he sees facing WMU:

\* Dealing with a denomination full of "cut flowers."

"Your challenge is to try to grow roots on cut flowers," Parks said. "Fortunately, that can be done in some situations."

"We face a generation with little

## Letters policy stated

The Baptist Record welcomes letters to the editor. It is important that readers be permitted to express opinions about the news and react to editorials. Opinion letters are a vital part of every news publication.

Guidelines for letters are essential. Letters should be brief, to the point, addressing one topic. Subject matter should be issues, not personalities. Positive rather than negative letters always are preferred. Writers should

not challenge the integrity of other writers.

Letters should be under 250 and never over 300 words. All letters are subject to editing. The editor is not responsible for printing or answering any letter. Open letters and copies of letters sent to other individuals or publications are not accepted.

Every letter must be signed, and the writer must give full name, address, and telephone number.

## Change our Covenant?

Editor:

I became a Christian and joined a Baptist church in 1958. I was barely 21 and a user of America's most dangerous drug, alcohol. After becoming familiar with the Baptist Covenant, I decided I should abstain from this drug and have always been thankful for that decision (even through 26 years of military service) and for the wisdom of Baptists who formulated the Covenant. I am sure multitudes of people could give the same testimony.

This past week we have been told the promotion of dangerous drugs will be a cornerstone of President Bush's re-election campaign in 1992. In the Jan. 13, 1992 issue of U.S. News & World Report magazine, under the headline "Bush's Beer-and-Burgers Look," we find the following: "The new chief of staff, who ran Bush's campaign in Illinois before becoming transportation secretary in 1989, is known to believe that Bush needs to develop more of a 'beer and burgers' campaign image. Somewhat awkwardly, Bush has complied, gulping beer and making small talk with local folks at a dance hall in Beeville, Texas, on December 27." (A picture of Bush gulping beer appeared on the

front page of the New York Times, Dec. 29.) Also, Bush told one interviewer he would "do anything it takes to win in 1992."

Most Baptists are aware that President Bush was a speaker at the SBC annual meeting. This year, VP Dan Quayle (a well-known drug promoter in his own right) is to be a featured speaker.

I suppose the question I have is, should we consider changing our Covenant so as not to offend the drug pushers-promoters we invite to speak at our annual meetings? Will our SBC leadership address this matter or should we pretend the situation doesn't exist?

Carl L. Hess  
Ozark, Ala.

## Pray, get involved

Editor:

On Jan. 19, Southern Baptists observed Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. What a farce this is for most of our churches. Since Roe v. Wade 30 million babies have been murdered and the church on the whole has sat silently by, comfortable within our own walls, turning a deaf ear to the silent screams of the innocent being aborted.

Do we really think that we as Christians will not be held accountable to God when God commands us to "Rescue those being led away to slaughter" (Prov. 24:12)?

Christians in America are repeating the history of German Christians who sang their hymns "just a little louder" as the Nazi death trains passed their church carrying Jews to the concentration camps. You see, they could do nothing to help.

Abortion is the holocaust of America. Will we continue to block out the screams of millions of our own children? Don't say, "It's not my ministry!" It is every Christian's responsibility to stand against evil. Are we not told that we are the salt of the earth? Pray for guidance and then get involved. There are many places of service in the pro-life ranks.

Sandra Pierce  
Laurel

## Thanks for suit

Editor:

This past Christmas, I was the recipient of a new suit which was purchased by the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. I want to express my deepest gratitude for the thoughtfulness and kindness of the Baptist men of Mississippi. Thank you, gentlemen. Your gift serves to remind me of what a wonderful privilege it is to be a part of the body of Christ.

Thank you for sharing and carrying about God's work in the Northwest. God continues to bless his work out here and although there are many lost, many of those are coming to know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

I know that God will bless your gifts of love. I pray he blesses you abundantly. Because of your kindness, know that there is always a home in Spokane, Washington open to you.

Larry Browning  
Spokane, Wash.

the Baptists within the country can ensure that proper follow-up will be done with those who receive evangelistic material, he said.

## Lewis speaks

HMB President Larry Lewis brought responses to questions which arose during last year's WMU executive board meeting about the role of women in home missions.

"A total of 172 women are now serving in the primary missionary role," he reported. "This number is an increase of 75% over the 129 women serving in primary missionary roles reported a year ago."

Lewis announced the following recommendations which have been approved by the HMB:

1. To explore ways for the HMB to influence states to request women for missions positions;

2. To examine the recruitment and nurture of women candidates for home missions positions;

3. To address the male-dominated relationship between the missionary personnel department and seminary student populations, and consider employing women on the missionary personnel department staff;

4. To explore and implement a series of experimental models that highlight women in local missions; and

5. To communicate more effectively HMB missions personnel classifications and terminology, including HMB cooperative relationships with state conventions and stewardship of resources.

Doyle writes for WMU.

## Are we serious about commitment?

Editor:

Much has been written about the Foreign Mission Board's commitment to our seminary at Ruschlikon and not following through. This seems to be the main point of contention, and it is a VERY legitimate one!

Many people knew nothing about Ruschlikon until this "flap" came to light. However, real Christians know about commitment.

I could not help but smile when I read that one of our board members said, "I have a bigger commitment than to Ruschlikon. I have a commitment to God as to how I vote to spend his money — not to a place." Therefore, he thinks the board is perfectly justified in breaking the commitment to Ruschlikon at the last minute, knowing it would up-end the whole program and have far-reaching effects all over the continents.

Keep in mind that some people say that a person must stay in a marriage, though an abusive one. And if one does not stay in regardless, then gets a divorce, one is not fit for a place of leadership, especially not on the mission field.

It seems that commitments can be broken when one feels God's leadership where money and power are involved and where one might be "whipped into line" by defunding. But, a commitment to an abusive unchristian unrelenting spouse is just how it has to be!

Did I hear the word "liberal" or "laughable?" Wake up and realize there is only one Book — all of it — whose Author is God Almighty, the same yesterday, today, and forever. It is unchangeable; he is unchangeable, omnipotent, and forgiving. He promises to forgive all our sins if we ask believing. The Scripture then, says "Go into all the world..." committed to preach, teach, and proclaim that Jesus Christ is our hope, not any other person or group!

With 1992 be a year of real commitment to the only God?

Name withheld by the editor

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# Christians should live as beacons glorifying God



## LIFE AND WORK

By Lola M. Autry

Matthew 5:1-16

An old Jewish legend says that after God created the world he asked the angels what they thought of it. One answered, "There is no sound of praise to the Creator." So God created music in the sound of the wind, in songs of the birds, and gave to man the gift of melody. All for one purpose: that the Creator might be glorified.

Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, taught ways we can glorify our God.

I. The setting of the sermon (vv. 1-2). Jesus found a proper place in the mountains, and his disciples came to him. At this time he began to teach them marvelous and wondrous things. He was preparing them for the tasks they faced. His teachings apply to ALL who take up their crosses and follow him. They are characteristics of discipleship.

II. Relating to God (vv. 3-6). Jesus loathed religious pretense. Motives as well as morals are the concern of Christ in our lesson today. These must be an everyday part of our walk with him. Jesus practiced and taught humility. He expects no less of us if we love him.

In verse 4 the significant word is "mourn." This word has many meanings: to be sad; to be sorrowful; to lament. There is a sinful mourning — the sorrow of the world. There is a natural mourning. There is a special mourning which qualifies for blessedness. This is the

mourning for our sins and those of people around us. He promises comfort.

Verse 5 relates to meekness. Blessed are they who quietly submit themselves to God and his teachings: keeping our cool when others lose their tempers; forgiving injuries without seeking revenge; having patience when trials abound. The reward will be great.

Verse 6 says those who are committed to Christ, seek intensely to know his will and to obey will find their desire fulfilled.

III. Relating to others (vv. 7-12). How do our peers see us? Are we merciful? Are our motives pure? Are we peacemakers? Do we endure persecution for his sake with love toward our persecutors? What is our reaction when we are falsely accused as we try to serve the Lord? These questions are addressed by Jesus and should be answered in our personal lives in accordance with his teachings. The promised reward is not the goal. The goal is living for him so we may relate to others as he would have

done.

IV. Being salt and light (vv. 13-16). A flavorless Christian life is a dull Christian life. Jesus teaches we are the flavor that enhances that life. What we do and what we say make a difference. If no enthusiasm for Christ shows through to others, they won't know of our belief in him. The gospel is as salt. It penetrates and it cleanses. We are to spread this "salt" gospel throughout the world.

Recently I watched as Jerusalem went to sleep. The city became quiet. Lights went out in the surrounding areas, but high on a distant mountain one glittered. In the darkness it proudly gleamed. Jesus said we are not to hide our lights. What did he mean? I believe he was telling us to live as Christians with no apologies, but rather as beacons glorifying God.

When we live for him our lights will never burn out but will shine even into eternity, glorifying him all the way.

Autry lives in Hickory Flat.

## God's judgment is imminent for sins or injustice



## BIBLE BOOK

By Charles E. Nestor

Amos 5:12-15, 18-24; 6:1-4

Israel was insensitive to the coming judgment of God. Isaiah pictures them as dead. Their only hope of survival is to turn to God. Any time faith is placed in human or false religion it will lead to trouble. Israel was moving along the highway of disobedience and judgment at a high rate of speed.

Amos describes their destruction in terms of siege and then pestilence. They felt secure by their military power which had turned back the Syrian oppression. It was a false security, as is true any time we trust human power over God's power. God was in the process of preparing the Assyrian nation to conquer Israel. God will not allow injustice to flourish among his

people. That is a lesson our present world should hear. Amos reminds his people that the one who is to judge them is Creator and Ruler of the world.

I. The sin of oppressing the poor (5:10-13). God will not tolerate the abuse of one human by another. He knew these people had gained much of their wealth at the expense of the poor. Amos describes their sin as threefold. (1) They afflict the just. There were those who did not support such treatment of the poor. Their sin was an affliction to those who wanted to do right. Sin is the root of much grief to God's people. Very often our closest relationships are the ones who bear the greatest affliction from our sins. (2) They were guilty of taking bribes. The judges were being bought, rather than justice being done. God forbid the acceptance of money or goods in exchange for the life of a murderer (Num. 35:31). (3) They were exploiting the poor. Justice was being perverted so that the rich were getting richer and the poor getting poorer. God does care how we treat each other. He will not tolerate abuse of any kind. Those who use others for their personal profit will not escape the judgment of God. Amos says that Israel was trying to silence the words of the prophet, but there would come a time when they would long

to hear a word from the Lord. One can't walk in darkness long before he needs some light.

II. A call to righteous living (5:14-15). The theme of Amos is the Lord's judgment of Israel and their destruction. Those who survive will be taken into captivity. This is one passage where he expressed hope for deliverance of a remnant of the people. These are the ones who repented and sought good instead of evil. They are challenged to stop oppressing the poor and corrupting the courts. They were to return to obeying God's law. Then they would be saved. Our world needs to be called back to righteous living. 2 Chronicles 7:14 is still true. When God's people repent and do right, God responds with his blessings.

III. The coming of God (5:18-24). "The day of the Lord" refers to the time God reveals himself in judgment of the wicked and exaltation of the righteous. Some were apparently anxious for the day to come. Amos tells them that they are in for a surprise. It will be a dark day for them because they will be subject to the judgment. They thought because they were sons of Abraham that they were safe. Their sinful life was going to bring the judgment of God. Amos illustrates it as one running from a lion

and meeting a bear, or seeking safety from the lion and bear by going into his home and is bitten by a serpent. God does not honor meaningless rituals. He delights in those who worship him in the beauty of holiness. God desires us to bring him our broken and contrite hearts. We are to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice in service. God rejected the worship of these people because it was not from the heart. People today are still trying to give God everything but themselves. He rejects such worship today.

IV. God's judgment on the wealthy (6:1-4). These were the wealthy and powerful members of Israel's aristocracy. Amos describes them as those who lie on fine furniture, eat choice food, sing idle songs, drink wine, anoint themselves with the finest oil, but have no concern for the brokenness of their nation. God saw the social injustice of their day was destroying the society. His judgment was imminent. The same is true today. The message of the Gospel is a call to righteous living through a repentance of sin and turning to Christ. God has never tolerated empty ritualistic religion or the abuse of fellow men. We are to worship God and love our fellow men. The financial resources God gives us are to be used to glorify him.

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

## Respond to God's love by being just and righteous



## UNIFORM

By Bobby Williamson

Isaiah 5

How do we as Christians return God's love? From Isaiah this week we can discover various ways we might return his love. How does God expect us to respond to his love? We will see that God expects us to respond by being just and righteous.

The vineyard owner's provisions (5:1-2).

In verses 1 and 2, we find Isaiah singing about a vineyard owner who made provisions for a productive vineyard, but the vineyard produced wild grapes. Why was this parable put into a song? It was quite probably so that it might be more moving and affecting, and that it might be more easily learned and remembered. Through the years most of us have forgotten very much of that which we have learned, but we still remember vividly songs that we have learned even as children.

God has constituted Jesus as the Lord of the vineyard, and in this manner the prophet sings to the honor of Christ. Here we might too examine what God has done for his vineyard in comparison to what he has done for us. He fenced it and took it under his special protection,

kept it night and day under his own eye. If they had not thrown down the fence, no inroad could have been made upon them.

Isn't this so very true of us? God has built a fence of protection around us through the shed blood of Jesus Christ; yet, we, by sin in our lives, make ourselves susceptible to the pitfalls of life.

A call for evaluation (5:3-4).

It is clear in these verses that there was a controversy between the people and God. Here we find a challenge for any man to show an instance where God has not done his part. Certainly no man, even today, could show instance where God has not attempted to do his part. Far too often the hardness of heart of man and our resistance to God's work in our lives make futile the efforts of God to bless us.

The vineyard owner's judgment (5:5-6).

Here we find Isaiah's call for judgment between the vineyard owner and the vineyard. The vineyard was not fruitful, thus judgment fell. This should be a reminder to all of us to examine our fruits. An apple bears apples, an orange bears oranges, but what is the Christian to bear? Christians should always bear the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. We should also bear other Christians by our witness.

God's judgement on his people (5:7).

In these verses we find God looking in vain for justice and righteousness among his people. Should this not motivate us to exercise these qualities in our lives? We should be challenged by today's lesson to never take God's blessings for granted.

There is also a seriousness in the failure to

return God's love. Let us make application this week to our own lives, as we seek to return God's love. Let each of us pray for ways to do

that in our lives each and every day.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.

## Christians escalate aid to China

HONG KONG (BP) — Contact and cooperation between Christians in Hong Kong and China steadily are increasing, and the Chinese government has reiterated it won't interfere in Hong Kong's religious affairs after taking political control in 1997.

Ren Wuzhi, director of China's religious affairs bureau, assured a Hong Kong Christian Council delegation visiting Beijing that his bureau and mainland religious organizations would not meddle in Hong Kong affairs after 1997. Freedoms that Hong Kong's religious community currently enjoys will continue, Ren also promised.

But Ren reminded the 19-member delegation that expatriate religious groups working with mainland churches must observe three governing principles: non-affiliation, non-intervention, and mutual respect.

The comments follow months of escalating contact between China's Christian community and groups from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macao, and the United States. Contributions to churches in China have escalated since the uncertainty following the government's 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. Now overseas Chinese Protestants are helping fund Christian development in China, especially among churches in Guangdong, the southern province near Hong Kong.

Besides Hong Kong donations, the Guangdong Christian Council has received funds from Germany, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, England, Canada, and the United States.

The local Christian council is renovating another church building in Shaoan, a former international settlement in Guangzhou. Also, Chinese Christians are negotiating with the government for return of a former Lutheran seminary.

"The international character of Christianity as well as Guangdong province's geographical and historical background enable local churches to have more frequent exposure and exchange with Christians from abroad," said a statement issued by the council.

"They show genuine concern for the development of churches and social welfare of Guangdong province and provide a considerable amount of help."



# Maben pastor builds with mortar, brick — and people

By Anne W. McWilliams

Randle Poss is a builder: in bricks and mortar, wood — and people. First Church, Maben has found that out during his 29 years as its pastor.

On Feb. 4, 1965 — two years after Poss moved to Maben — flames raced through the church halls, leapt toward the sky, and left only a pile of blackened bricks. The pastor well remembers that date: "I slipped off home to pray. I made a promise to God, and later to the people, that I'd see it was built back."

As himself the building contractor and overseer, he traveled all over the state to buy materials. "I got to be a pretty good bargainer, asking good prices not for me but for my church."

Though not a professional builder or carpenter, he had in his growing up days on a farm at Itta Bena become a jack of all trades. Men of the church did most of the building. "They were very cooperative," said the pastor. "Adversity had resulted in a binding of the people."

Did they shovel the old and sooty bricks into the garbage heap? Not a one! All the congregation worked together, Poss leading, to clean the bricks and use them to build a pastorium. They would meet for prayer meeting outdoors on Wednesday nights. Afterwards they would scrub bricks. Sundays they met at a school.

By June of 1966 the church had entered the new sanctuary and education building. On Sept. 13, 1966, the pastor's birthday, they dedicated the pastorium. In 1979, a family life building was added. On Oct. 7, 1990, the church's centennial year, an education annex was dedicated; it in-

cluded a new office suite. Today the church plant is valued at \$1,000,000.

Besides, the pastor has built a three-bedroom, three-bath, fireplace home of his own for retirement days. He did it with the help of one carpenter and, he admitted, "a little help with the roofing." He wired it and got an electrician to check it out. At present, his in-laws, Mr. and Mrs. John Ward, are living in it on a three-acre lot in Maben, in a grove of pine trees.

Woodworking, camping, and all kinds of sports are Poss's hobbies. He made a plaque showing the mascots of Ole Miss, USM, and State side by side. "I'm the only Ole Miss rebel in Oktibbeha County that will admit it to the State Bulldogs!" Probably here's why: His son, Randy, has a bachelor's degree from Ole Miss and a master's degree from State. His daughter, Lecia, has a bachelor's degree from State and a master's degree from Ole Miss. Poss himself was graduated from junior college at Sunflower (now Delta) and from William Carey College (1956) on football scholarships. Carey was where he met Gloria Jean Ward, whom he married.

While at Carey, halfback Randle Poss made headlines when Carey Crusaders topped Livingston: "Poss runs 73, 60 yards for touchdowns in rout of Alabama grid squad." The Carey team won 38-7 in its only home game of the year and on a "rain-drenched and sloppy field."

Son Randy, father of two children, teaches computer science and is assistant football coach at Grenada High. A member of Emmanuel Church, he is a frequent lay speaker.

Daughter Lecia, mother of a boy with red hair like his Granddaddy Poss, is married to Randy Bain, pastor of First Church, Abbeville. Wife Gloria teaches in elementary school in Maben. Mornings the two of them walk, at 5:30, three and six tenths miles in 50 minutes. "I thank the Lord every day for my wife," he said. "Probably she has helped me more than anyone. She knows when to let the air out and when to pump it up."

His call to the ministry came after his Navy service during the Korean conflict. Two pastorates and a degree from New Orleans Seminary preceded his move to Maben. He was pastor of New Henleyfield Church, Picayune, and associate pastor of Calvary Church, Meridian. He has been a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and of its Executive Committee.

As for building a congregation, not necessarily in numbers, his philosophy has been "to take the people where they are and to take them to where God would have them to be."

In this respect, his building has been done with a positive outlook. "I am happy in this small town. It is just where I believe God wants me to be. We have our ups and downs, but mostly ups. I get up every morning and think, 'This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.' " He added, "One thing about the ministry. You need to learn to laugh. Preachers need to learn they can make a mistake. We need to be strong enough to admit it and go on from there."

"I doubt if anyone in the state has a better and more capable staff than I. Janie Diaz is the education director; Faye Fulgham is my secretary; Billy Hester is the minister of music."

The church, with 300 resident members, gave \$25,115.00 to missions last year. It was fifth in the state in study awards in the area of Christian family. At least 40 of the members have completed a study of MasterLife.

Said Poss: "My relationship with people is the most satisfying thing in my ministry. I have people here who are able, down-to-earth good folks, with common sense. I have people in my church that I can depend upon. Our town is not as thriving as it has been in some days past, but I am here to minister to the people of our community 'from the cradle to the grave.'"

With this kind of "construction material" he has built up a church family that is a warm, dynamic, and loving fellowship.

creditation for Protestant schools and colleges.

The bill is the result of four years of negotiation between the nation's Ministry of Justice and the Federation of Evangelical Religious Entities (FEREDE). The federation's executive secretary, Jose Cardona, expects the bill to pass the Cortes this year, possibly by Reformation Day, Oct. 31.

The bill extends recognition only to organizations which join FERED. Cardona acknowledges that this could hurt those organizations which might object to joining FERED, but promises that Protestant groups seeking membership will almost certainly be accepted.



Randle Poss, pastor of First Church, Maben, made the plaque he's showing off, with Ole Miss, State, and USM mascots. His wife painted it. He says he's the only Ole Miss fan in Oktibbeha County who will admit it. (Maben is in Oktibbeha and Webster counties.) His new office, dedicated in 1990, is decorated in blue and white and contains two paintings by his daughter, Lecia Bain, one of ducks and one of a field of cotton.



Randle Poss built this house for himself and his wife, Gloria, to live in when he retires. His in-laws, Mr. and Mrs. John Ward, live in it now.

## Book reviews

**FAITH LIFT** — Especially for Women, by Jane S. Borne and Bonnie W. Tatum (Miracle Publishing Co., P. O. Box 7785, Gulfport, MS 39506, paper, 135 pp., \$8.48. Illustrations by Doug Blom).

In this inspirational book written for women, the Mississippi authors combined their talents to produce a variety of "faith lifters." The personal experiences shared in the stories are those of Jane, but Bonnie had gone through many of the same types of experiences and so as she did the editing was able to do it in a sensitive way. "It was painful for Jane to write about some of these," she said, "but she and I wanted to share with other women with similar problems to ours and show them that if we could overcome, then they can too, with Christ's help." For the book, Bonnie wrote the poems, the songs, and the music. These add depth and richness to the volume and are a complement to the stories of personal experiences.

Our chapter describes the writer's mother, and the overwhelming loss Jane felt at her mother's death, and then tells how in triumph she realized "in the deepest recesses of my own spirit, that this was not her end." Problems touched include alcoholism, unfaithfulness, divorce, bankruptcy, and others. Poems talk about "The Little Things," pride, giving, adultery, the swiftness of the seasons, solitude, "mission," a child's song . . .

This book is beautifully written and deeply moving. Jane Borne is a mother, stepmother, grandmother, educator, and business woman. She holds a doctorate in education and has had an extensive career in innovative programming. She has written and designed curricula for specialized audiences. Bonnie Tatum has combined a career in teaching and administration with mothering three sons. She

received a Ph.D. in communication, has been a college professor, and has worked extensively with handicapped persons — establishing the first Cheshire Home for the developmentally disabled in the U.S. Her songs, poems, video tapes, and dramatizations have appeared in education and religious publications/programs.

Faith Lift seminars and workshops are available by the authors. The two are doing a radio program in Ocean Springs for WOSM, called Faith Lift. Its theme song is the first song in the book. Books may be ordered from the publisher's address above for \$8.48 (this includes tax) plus \$2 postage. Also the authors may be contacted at the same address. — AWM



Since the church burned at Maben in 1965, Pastor Randle Poss has led in the building of sanctuary and education building, left; family life center (middle); and an additional education annex, right.

## Spain may recognize evangelicals

MADRID, Spain (EP) — Evangelicals in Spain have faced an uphill battle ever since Gen. Francisco Franco's victory in the Spanish Civil War of 1936-39. Franco worked to crush his political enemies, including Protestants. Churches were shut down, Bibles and Christian literature confiscated, and evangelism was forbidden.

All that could change, however, according to a report in Christianity Today. The Spanish national parliament, the Cortes, is considering legislation that would grant new religious rights to the nation's Protestant Christians.

The proposal, called the Accords of Cooperation between the Spanish State and the Federation of Evangel-

ical Entities of Spain, gives official status to Protestant churches in such areas as taxation, professional ministry, and education.

Protestant churches and ministries would be exempt from property and corporate taxes, and evangelicals could deduct contributions to their churches and ministries. Protestant ministers would also be given the same recognition as Roman Catholic priests, making it possible for them to serve as chaplains in the military, hospitals, and schools.

The proposal would require schools to provide Protestant religious instruction to students who request an alternative to Catholic teaching. It would also open the door to official ac-

Baptist Record

005-DTM 291  
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January 23, 1992

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